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Japan

Analysts Question Ability of U.S. Cars To Sell

OW1101015492 Tokyo KYODO in English 2318 GMT 10 JAN 92

["News Focus" feature by Ikuji Nakaya]

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Bowing to the high-powered "auto sales team" led by U.S. President George Bush, Japanese automakers seem to have taken on a tough assignment—selling cars that still carry a less than positive image in Japan.

An official dealing with automobiles made by General Motors Corp. (GM) at Yanase and Co., Japan's largest dealer in imported cars, says the problem is not the number of cars they were pressured to sell, but whether U.S.-made vehicles can really succeed in the Japanese market.

This week Toyota Motor Corp. offered to sell 5,000 GM cars per year and Nissan Motor Co. 3,000 units of Ford Motor Co., while Mazda Motor Corp. agreed to move 4,500 ford vehicles, and Honda Motor Co. 1,200 cars of Chrysler Corp.. Mitsubishi Motors Corp. announced it will aim at selling 6,000 Chrysler units in fiscal 1995.

The Yanase official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the target numbers are not "unrealistic," since they were worked out through a certain amount of preliminary study.

Kenny Hyman, analyst with Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities Japan Ltd., says the figures are "definitely optimistic but not impossible," if U.S. cars get more "exposure" in the Japanese market, prices are lowered and quality and image improved.

But the Yanase official noted that if U.S. automakers concentrate on the number of cars they sell, which he said would mean focusing on compacts, they will eventually be forced to compete with Toyota's Corollas and Nissan's Sunny models.

"That will be difficult," he said. "The Corolla-equivalent model made by GM, known as the Saturn, looks like Corollas looked 10 years ago."

The Yanase official himself is a great fan of American cars. Although he had some minor troubles, such as a radiator leak, with a GM Camaro he used to own, he said "Buying American cars is like buying hunting boots instead of refined business shoes."

But an anonymous Nissan engineer, asked if he would be interested in purchasing an American car, said "No,...It seems as if Japanese and German cars are made with more precision....U.S. cars seem rather roughly made."

Seiko Obayashi, a 26-year-old businesswoman, doubts U.S. cars will succeed in the Japanese market, even with the help from Japanese automakers. Bush's delegation even helped to drag down the image of American cars, she says.

Her family used to own Pontiac and Buick models but changed to Nissans several years ago. "The cost in money and time required for maintenance was about 10 times more than domestic cars for both," she said.

But she pointed out that Japanese who buy foreign cars have other objectives than merely purchasing "a vehicle."

A spokesman for BMW Japan Corp. said many of his company's clients are those who are really "into" automobiles. They focus on the originality of the cars and, although the company sells specially-equipped right-hand-drive types for Japan, 60-70 percent of its sales are left-handed drives, he added.

In 1991, BMW alone sold 33,798 vehicles in Japan, surpassing the figure for all U.S.-made cars—including "reimported vehicles" that were assembled in the U.S. by Japanese automakers and exported to Japan. Of the 197,184 cars imported last year, German cars accounted for 119,048 vehicles, or 60 percent. American cars totaled only 30,128, or about 15 percent.

"U.S. automakers ought to make cars suitable to the market, establish their own sales networks, and guarantee sufficient after-sales service," the BMW spokesman suggested.

He added that even with the help of Japanese automakers, American carmakers don't worry him as competitors. He said he rather would welcome the possible "multiplier effect" stemming from the expansion of overall imported car market in Japan.

Barclay's Hyman concluded that U.S. automakers ought to reflect on the fact that Japanese automakers won the car sales game in the U.S.

Kume Says U.S. Automakers Must Help Themselves

OW1401092892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Fukuoka, Jan. 14 KYODO—U.S. automakers should help themselves by working harder to sell cars in Japan, Yutaka Kume, president of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association, said Tuesday.

Although the Japanese side will be mainly responsible for carrying out its promises to buy more U.S.-made auto parts, Kume told reporters, U.S. automakers will be the main players in boosting sales of American cars in Japan.

U.S. efforts, such as lowering prices, will be critical to the success of recent Japanese offers to sell more U.S. cars in Japan, Kume, who is also president of Nissan Motor Co., said. He added that the figures were technically not "targets" but "forecasts" that assumed greater U.S. efforts.

Kume said Japan will support such efforts by making its market freer to imports. He said Japan must increase overseas production of cars and reduce exports to correct trade imbalances.

Some three-fourths of Japan's 41 billion dollar annual trade surplus with the United States is in auto trade.

Kume responded negatively to a proposed February meeting of the heads of Japanese and U.S. automakers, saying the leaders must find opportunities to exchange views individually.

He added, however, that the issue must be discussed by industry officials before sorting out solutions.

CDC To Market NEC Supercomputers in U.S.

OW1401110592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Major Japanese electronics firm NEC [Nippon Electric Company] Corp. announced Tuesday it has signed a basic agreement with Control Data Corp. (CDC) on the marketing of its high-performance supercomputers through the U.S. firm's sales network.

The Tokyo-based company said a formal agreement is scheduled to be signed within a month.

The agreement calls for the Minneapolis, Minnesota-based firm to market NEC's super high-speed SX-3 series supercomputers under the NEC brand name through its global sales network.

NEC officials said emphasis will be placed on sales to automakers and aerospace equipment makers in Europe and the United States.

CDC maintains a strong sales and service network in the European and North American supercomputer market, although it suspended production of supercomputers two and a half years ago, the officials said.

NEC will provide CDC's customers who purchase the SX-3 series with hardware, testing, and maintenance services, they said.

The officials expressed hope that the collaboration between the two firms will help NEC penetrate the U.S. supercomputer market now dominated by Cray Research Inc.

Cabinet Approves Foreign Minister Visit to U.S.

OW1401010792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0056 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—The government in a cabinet meeting Tuesday approved Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's planned visit to the United States from January 20 to 22, government officials said.

Watanabe is scheduled to attend an international conference on January 22 in Washington, where he will discuss coordination of aid to the former Soviet republics, the officials said.

The foreign minister will also meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on January 21, and plans to meet U.S. President George Bush as well as hold separate talks with ministers who attend the aid meeting.

Tokyo on 'Extreme Difficulties' of Tariffication

OW1401020092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0148 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Geneva, Jan. 13 KYODO—Participating countries in the world trade talks agreed Monday to bring the stalled Uruguay Round to a quick end, but with some demanding changes in a draft proposal designed to bring the talks to a conclusion.

At the resumption of talks on the stalled round, Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT,) said, "We are now, very clearly, in the concluding phase of the round. Our efforts today and in the weeks following have to be well coordinated and directed towards the sole objective of bringing the round to a successful conclusion."

Dunkel suggested pushing the negotiations simultaneously on a four-track approach—intensive negotiations on market access, on trade in services, work to ensure the legal conformity and internal consistency of the agreements on the draft package, and work at the level of the trade negotiations committee to examine the possibility of adjusting the package in certain specific places.

The 108 nations taking part in the talks, which are still deadlocked after a one-year extension of the original deadline of December 1990, agreed on the necessity of an early end.

But demands came one after another from the participants on such difficult areas as farm trade, especially regarding the proposal on reducing farm subsidies and converting all nontariff farm import barriers into tariffs, as suggested in the comprehensive draft paper issued by Dunkel on December 20.

Japanese negotiators assessed that the draft proposal has made "an important step forward to push the round to a successful conclusion," but reiterated Japan's opposition to tariffication of import barriers without exceptions.

Japan, which has long banned foreign rice imports to maintain "self-sufficiency of staple foods," said it has "extreme difficulties" with the idea of comprehensive tariffication.

A chief Japanese negotiator said, "There is a lack of balance in the treatment of border measures, as compared with export subsidies."

Of the 20 countries which originally opposed the tariffication, only six countries, such as Japan, Canada, South Korea, and three others, stated clear opposition in Monday's meeting.

The United States said there are problems to be discussed in regard to the proposal, but added that those problems should be resolved to benefit market liberalization. The U.S. also said discussions in the next several weeks will be vital.

The European Community (EC) expressed a strong willingness to help conclude the talks early, but pointed out "problems" in the area of farm trade.

After Monday's session, Japanese negotiators told reporters that they felt there is limited room for negotiation on changing the draft paper.

Simply reiterating Japanese opposition to tariffication may not pave the way, they said, adding that Japan may have to hold informal talks with the U.S. and the EC sometime soon to discuss the issue of opening Japan's rice market.

Difficulty Seen in Overturning Tariffication Idea

OW1401050392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0449 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—High-ranking Japanese Government officials said Tuesday they see little room to avoid a proposed conversion of non-tariff barriers into tariffs at the world trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which resumed in Geneva Monday.

After Tuesday's cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said he heard that countries participating in the talks reached late Monday a general consensus not to wreck the framework of a draft package, which was proposed by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel.

"It seems difficult to overturn the idea of comprehensive tariffication," he said, while holding back from making a definite projection on whether or not Japan will have to open its long- protected rice market.

Meanwhile, Masami Tanabu, agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister, said that the GATT-participating countries will hold separate negotiations on each area of farm trade, including rice and milk products.

Japan will have bilateral negotiations with rice exporting countries such the United States and Thailand, he said.

Japan's stance, however, has not changed from what it was in the past, Tanabu stressed, saying that Japan cannot accept the idea of tariffication which would eventually lead to a complete liberalization of the Japanese rice market.

It is difficult for Japan to change domestic law relating to Japan's staple food self-sufficiency, he said.

Tanabu said his ministry is now under government orders to examine the proposal's overall impact on Japanese agriculture in case GATT nations conclude the Uruguay Round talks with a comprehensive tariffication plan.

Miyazawa To Attend UN Security Council Summit

OW1301132092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will represent Japan at a meeting involving leaders of the 15 member states of the U.N. Security Council later this month, government sources said Monday.

A top Foreign Ministry official said it is essential for Japan to be represented at the conference at the highest level if Japan is to avoid being seen as "only paying lip service" in repeatedly speaking of a need to invigorate the United Nations so that it can effectively deal with issues of the post-cold war era.

The official said Japan would find itself in an awkward position if it were the only country at the meeting not represented by its leader.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato suggested earlier in the day the possibility of Miyazawa's attendance at the January 31 meeting in New York.

Miyazawa earlier expressed reluctance to attend the meeting because he wished to give precedence to the parliament, where a regular session is to convene January 24.

The government needs to secure the consent of opposition parties in the Diet, which is to be in session the day of the U.N. meeting, before confirming Miyazawa's participation.

Government sources said the cabinet will make an official decision on the matter after conferring with opposition parties.

Miyazawa received a letter from British Prime Minister John Major last week asking him to attend the U.N. meeting. Britain is chairing the Security Council during January.

Major proposed the meeting to discuss strengthening the role of the U.N. and its secretary general following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, as well as disarmament.

Foreign Ministry officials are believed to be concerned that Miyazawa's inability to attend due to Diet business would not bode well for Japan's quest for a permanent seat on the Council.

Japanese officials have said that in view of Japan's high financial contributions to the world body and the country's influence in world affairs, the current configuration of the Council should be changed to keep with the times.

Japan currently holds for a two-year term one of the 10 nonpermanent, rotating seats on the 15-seat Council but is aiming along with other countries such as India for a permanent seat.

The permanent seats are held by the major victorious powers of World War II—the United States, Russia, China, Britain, and France.

Leaders of the member nations are scheduled to deliver brief speeches at the meeting.

In New York, Miyazawa is likely to hold talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin for the first time since the demise of the Soviet Union, the sources said.

According to British press reports, the summit will consider a proposal that U.N. member states contribute military personnel for a rapid deployment force.

The Diet is discussing legislation that would allow military personnel to serve in U.N. peacekeeping operations overseas.

Matsuura Appointed Deputy Foreign Minister

OW1001120392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0228 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The cabinet on Friday approved the appointment of the Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau Director General Koichiro Matsuura as new deputy foreign minister.

Matsuura, 54, joined the Foreign Ministry in 1959 and had been in his previous post since January 1990.

The government also appointed Yukio Sato, head of the ministry's Information Analysis, Research and Planning Bureau, as new head of the North American Affairs Bureau.

Cabinet Approves New Foreign Ministry Lineup

OW1401013892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0121 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—The government approved in a cabinet meeting Tuesday a new lineup of Foreign Ministry bureau directors general, with New York Consul Masamichi Hanabusa taking over as ministry spokesman and Yukio Sato being named head of the North American Affairs Bureau, officials said.

The official announcement of the six new appointments will be made Friday.

Hanabusa, 58, who replaces Taizo Watanabe, will take over as the ministry's director general for public information and cultural affairs, after a career that included a stint as Economic Cooperation Bureau director general and since July 1988 as New York consul general.

The new ministry spokesman joined the ministry in 1958 after coming from Keio University's graduate school.

Sato, 52, left Tokyo University's law department without graduation to enter the ministry in 1961. He has served as consul general in Hong Kong and since January 1990 as director general of the Information Analysis, Research and Planning Bureau.

Replacing Sato in his old post as analysis and research chief, will be Katsunari Suzuki, 53, who served as a minister to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for two years.

Terusuke Terada, 53, moves from the embassy in France where he served as a minister, to his new position as director general of the Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau.

Kazuo Ogura, 53, will take over the Economic Affairs Bureau after leaving the Cultural Affairs Department which he has directed since July 1989.

Hiroshi Hirabayashi, 51, now a minister at the embassy in Washington, will remain in the U.S. capital as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary.

Minister Hails Akashi's Appointment to UNTAC

OW1001060092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0538 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Japan on Friday lauded the appointment of United Nations Undersecretary General Yasushi Akashi to the head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said in a statement the appointment itself is extremely welcome for Japan, too.

"Japan recognizes the importance of a role to be played by the UNTAC to ensure the smooth implementation of the Cambodian peace accord," the statement said. "Japan needs to give assistance commensurate with its power."

Watanabe said Japan will give Akashi "maximum assistance" to help him carry out his new mission to keep the recent truce accord from collapsing in the war-scarred nation.

Government Mission Leaves on Vietnam Aid Visit

OW1101062392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0413 GMT 11 JAN 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 1 KYODO—A Japanese Government mission left for Hanoi on Saturday to discuss with Vietnamese officials resumption of Japanese economic assistance to Vietnam.

The nine-member team consists of officials from the Foreign Ministry's Economic Cooperation Bureau and other government officials.

They will discuss Vietnamese funding pleas and Vietnam's approximately 20 billion yen debt to Japan, government officials said.

Japan froze its official development assistance to Vietnam, except for humanitarian aid, after Hanoi invaded Cambodia in December 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge government.

The mission will stay in Vietnam until January 19.

Idemitsu To Join in Oil Exploration off SRV

OW1401141592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—A subsidiary of Idemitsu Kosan Co. has reached broad agreement with the Government of Vietnam to jointly carry out oil exploration off the northern coast of that country, industry sources said Tuesday.

The two parties hope to finalize the agreement by summer and actually launch the project within this year, the sources said.

It will be the first Japanese involvement in such a project in Vietnam.

According to the sources, the subsidiary, Idemitsu Oil Development Co., and the Vietnamese side are eyeing the sinking of wells in the No. 102 concession area in the Gulf of Tonkin off Haiphong. The area is about 2,000 square kilometers in size.

Details will be decided later, they said, but added the parties are considering sinking three to four exploratory wells over five years.

As soon as the parties find a well with commercial potential, they hope to start developing it for production, the sources said.

The cost of the project is estimated at 30-50 million U.S. dollars and loans are expected from the government-financed Japan National Oil Corp.

The sources said high-quality petroleum is believed to lie beneath the seabed and it is hoped there will be some 100 million barrels of deposits, allowing for a production of 50,000 barrels of oil per day.

Vietnam currently produces oil off southern Vietnam in a joint venture with the former Soviet Union, but total output for the country as a whole is a mere 70,000 barrels per day, they said.

Finance Minister To Accompany Miyazawa to Seoul

OW1301044992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata will accompany Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on his three-day visit to South Korea from Thursday, a government source said Monday.

Hata will exchange views with South Korea's financial authorities on broad front of bilateral economic relations, including the huge trade imbalance in Japan's favor, the source said.

The issue of tariffs will also be discussed in a proposed meeting with South Korean Finance Minister Yi Yong-man, the source said.

Hata will return home earlier than Miyazawa, the source added.

Miyazawa Apologizes to Korean 'Comfort Women'

OW1401104692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized Tuesday to Korean women who were forced to work in World War II military brothels, but suggested that compensation for their suffering would have to be decided by the courts.

Speaking to South Korean reporters on the eve of his January 16-18 trip to Seoul, Miyazawa said that war reparations were settled at the government level in a 1965 treaty.

"Individuals have the right to seek reparations, and such cases are now proceeding in Japanese courts," a Foreign Ministry official quoted him saying.

In a near verbatim repetition of a formal government apology released Monday, Miyazawa said, "it is undeniable that the Japanese Imperial Army was involved in the recruitment of these women and management of the facilities.

"I wish to express my apologies and remorse to all those who underwent indescribable suffering."

Some 100,000 to 200,000 women, most of them Koreans, were reportedly mobilized from 1931-1945 and sent to wartime brothels.

Last month three Korean women became the first former "Comfort Women" to file suit against the Japanese Government seeking compensation.

On Japan's 9 billion dollar trade surplus with South Korea—another contentious issue expected to be addressed in summit talks with president No Tae-u—Miyazawa urged South Korea to take a long-term perspective.

"South Korea is suffering a trade deficit because it is undergoing economic adjustments. I think there will soon be a recovery," Miyazawa was quoted saying.

In summit talks slated for Thursday and Friday Miyazawa said he intends to explain to No legislation before parliament that would enable Japanese soldiers to participate in United Nations peacekeeping efforts.

He assured the interviewers that the legislation, if passed, will not lead to Japan's reemergence as a military power.

Officials in South Korea, a former Japanese colony from 1910-1945, have expressed concern over the bill that would send Japanese military personnel to potential combat areas abroad for the first time since World War II.

Asked about the prospects for Tokyo establishing diplomatic relations with Pyongyang this year, Miyazawa said that ties hinge on North Korea's fulfillment of a pledge to allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

"How long this will take depends on the decision of North Korea," Miyazawa was quoted saying.

Pyongyang recently announced plans to accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Groups Urge Tokyo To Compensate Comfort Women

OW1401135292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Two days before Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa leaves for South Korea, citizens groups called on the government Tuesday to compensate the primarily Korean victims for its admitted role in wartime forced prostitution.

Seven representatives from 13 groups dealing with Japan-Korean issues made the plea in a meeting with Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Motoji Kondo at the prime minister's official residence.

They gave him a statement calling Japan's aggression and 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula "injustice," saying that as a matter of the Japanese society's honor and trust, the government should formally apologize and pledge compensation.

In his visit to Seoul from Thursday to Saturday, Miyazawa is expected to apologize for what Japanese officials call the "unfortunate past" marked by Japan's colonial rule.

The groups' statement also called for preserving historical buildings, establishing memorial museums, and giving correct descriptions in textbooks so as not to repeat the "injustice."

One representative said the groups have also asked the government to specify its proposed investigation on the "Comfort Women" issue.

Last month, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said the government plans to intensity its investigation in the wake of heightened public interest in the issue.

Miyazawa apologized Tuesday to Korean women forced to work in Japanese military brothels during World War II, but suggested that compensation for their suffering would have to be decided by the courts.

Government officials have repeatedly expressed regret over the issue in recent days after government documents surfaced linking the Japanese Imperial Army to the forcing of women to serve as prostitutes.

As many as 200,000 women, mostly from Japanese-occupied Korea, were reportedly forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers.

The groups also called on Tokyo to acknowledge other problems affecting Koreans, such as the government's wartime conscription and forced-labor policies.

Later Tuesday, the groups gathered about 250 people in Tokyo's Chiyoda ward to discuss problems involving Japan's compensation to Koreans.

Relief for Former Forced Laborers Considered

OW1401140292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1306 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—The government is considering possible relief measures for former forced laborers in South Korea prior to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's three-day visit to that country later this week, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato was quoted as saying Tuesday.

However, Kato reiterated the government's long-running stance that the government would not provide individual compensation for their sufferings, the officials said.

Kato disclosed the new government move in a meeting with Sadao Yamahana, secretary general of No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP). Kato was quoted as saying, "if there are any good ideas among the SDP, please contact the government."

The Japanese Government maintains the stand that the issue of war reparations was settled at the government level in a 1965 treaty between Japan and South Korea.

It is the first time for a senior government official to speak of possible relief for former forced laborers, a virtual "compensation."

Observers said the government apparently hopes to pave the way for a settlement through political decision, while maintaining the general policy of not compensating individual victims.

As for the controversial "Comfort Women" who were forced to work at military brothels during World War II, Kato said that he would also like to seek opinions from various circles on how to tackle the issue, the officials said.

More than one million Koreans were forcefully brought to Japan from the Korean peninsula to labor in coal mines and munitions factories throughout the country during World War II.

A South Korean group of former forced laborers and bereaved families filed a suit with the Tokyo District Court last December seeking an "official apology" and compensation from the Japanese Government.

Construction Market Issue on ROK Visit Agenda

OW1401141092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u will urge Japan to allow South Korean firms to enter its construction market when he meets with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa later this week, Japanese Government sources said Tuesday.

The issue arose during recent negotiations between Japanese and South Korean officials prior to the Miyazawa-No summit.

Miyazawa will make a three-day visit to Seoul starting Thursday.

Some officials in Seoul believe South Korean participation in Japan's public works projects will correct the country's trade imbalance with Japan and promote technological transfer.

Tokyo does not plan to accede to Seoul's request on grounds the South Korean Government does not always award contracts for public works projects to both foreign and domestic contractors equally, a source said.

But Miyazawa will not reject No's demand if the issue comes up during their talks, he said.

The prime minister will instead ask South Korean officials if they are prepared to open up their public works projects to Japanese contractors, he said.

Junzo Iwasaki Visits Northern Islands 12 Jan

OW1201154792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1211 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido, Jan. 12 KYODO—Junzo Iwasaki, director general of the Management and Coordination Agency, observed two Russian-controlled northern islands from Cape Nossapu here Sunday.

In the the first such visit by a head of the agency in nearly two years, Iwasaki, who also leads the government's campaign to win the return of what it calls Japan's "northern territories," saw the Habomai group of islets and Kunashiri Island.

The two other northern islands are Etorofu and Shikotan.

After observing the islands, Iwasaki talked with Nemuro Municipal officials about stepping up the "Return the Northern Territories" campaign and increasing visits to the islands by former residents.

In a related development, Japan on Sunday sent 25 million yen worth of emergency food aid to the islands to help ease a food shortage there.

'Emergency Food Aid' Sent to Northern Islands

OW1201154392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Kushiro, Hokkaido Pref., Jan. 12 KYODO—A Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) boat left Sunday for four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido, carrying about 45 tons of emergency food aid to ease a food shortage there.

The emergency food for the area Japan claims as its "northern territories" was prepared by the Japanese Government and the Japan Red Cross and comprises 25 million yen worth of powdered milk, sugar, butter, corned beef, and Vienna sausage, officials said.

The MSA patrol boat Suruga will arrive Monday morning at a port on Kunashiri Island with food for residents of Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets.

The islands have been under Russian control since the Red Army seized them in the closing days of World War II. The issue of the islands has hindered smooth Tokyo-Moscow relations ever since.

The Japanese Government promised the emergency aid when Sakhalin Gov. Valentin Fyodorov visited Japan last December.

Russian Industrial Mission Postpones Trip

OW1401135492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1305 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—A russian business training mission will have to postpone indefinitely a trip to Japan due to the impact of the January 2 lifting of price controls in the republic, Japanese Government sources said Tuesday.

The postponement was prompted by the sudden 13-fold upsurge in the airfare to Japan, which could no longer be covered by the funds the group received from the Russian Government.

The 17-member delegation, invited by the Foreign Ministry and the International Trade and Industry Ministry, was to have arrived Wednesday.

Officials from both ministries said they wanted the delegation to make the trip even if it meant reducing the size of the mission.

The training mission was part of Japan's technological support program to the former Soviet Union.

With the cooperation of the private sector, the delegation was to study Japan's distribution system, industrial structure, and policies of the country's small and medium-sized businesses during its two-week stay.

Watanabe, Palestinian Delegation Discuss Talks

OW1401055992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0535 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—The leader of a group of influential Palestinians visiting Tokyo urged Japan on Tuesday to indirectly pressure Israel to be more conciliatory in Middle East peace talks, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Faysal Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni, a negotiator in the peace process who represents Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, made the remarks to Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, the officials said.

Referring to the Middle East peace talks now underway in Washington, Faysal al-Husayni was quoted as saying Japan could help facilitate progress by making use of its good communications with the U.S. Government to exert pressure on Israel.

He also said Arabs and Palestinians have high expectations of Japan regarding the anticipated international peace conference in Moscow.

Faysal al-Husayni, who arrived in Japan last Saturday for an 11- day stay, is among a group invited to Tokyo by the Japanese Government under the Foreign Ministry's opinion leader's invitation program.

Officials said Watanabe told the Palestinian representative it is important for the Palestinian side to also adopt flexible and realistic positions in the negotiations if they are to bear fruit.

Watanabe said he would attend the Moscow meeting and intends to act as the joint head of the committee there on economic matters relating to the Middle East peace process.

Officials said Watanabe told Faysal al-Husayni that Japan is opposed to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

It was not made known by officials if the two sides discussed the possibility of Japan's hosting a follow-up Middle East conference in the wake of the Moscow conference.

Moscow Talks Postponement Suggested

OW1401111692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—A senior Palestinian representative suggested Tuesday that a multilateral Middle East peace conference slated for this month in Moscow be postponed unless Arab and Israeli negotiators make progress in current bilateral talks in Washington.

"If you insist to have a successful political and economic meeting in the multilateral talks, it will not be possible if there is no progress in the bilateral talks," said Faysal Abd al-Qadir al- Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation advisory committee in the present negotiations.

In the short term, Israel must agree to halt Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, and take such "confidence-building steps" as committing itself "to stop expelling people, to stop demolishing houses, to stop shooting on demonstrations ... to stop confiscating land, to stop collective punishments," he said.

Al-Husyani came to Japan on Saturday as head of a Palestinian delegation invited by the Japanese Foreign Ministry for 11 days under its opinion leaders invitation program.

If the United States insists the Moscow conference open January 28 as scheduled without sufficient progress, "it will be more an academic meeting than a political meeting," he said.

His remarks followed a report Monday that an anonymous top Jordanian official said the Moscow conference may be put off to sometime in March.

"We are asking for time to allow the bilateral talks to go forward," Al-Husayni said, adding that Palestinians would rather wait two months for progress than go to the Moscow meeting without it.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Washington held their first direct talks Monday night and were expected to hold a second round Tuesday evening.

At this stage of the peace process, Al-Husayni said, Israeli confidence-building measures are more important than matters of substance on the key question of interim self-rule for the 1.75 million Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

"That will come in the future, not now," he said, stressing that as negotiations leading up to interim self-rule will take time, it is important to tackle issues that obstruct those negotiations.

Al-Husayni reiterated suggestions earlier Tuesday in talks with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe that Japan urge the U.S. Government to exert pressure on Israel to be more conciliatory.

The Palestinian official told KYODO NEWS SERVICE it is "possible" that Japan could host a follow-up multilateral Middle East meeting after the Moscow conference. Foreign Ministry officials said they did not know whether Al-Husayni and Watanabe had discussed the possibility.

Al-Husayni said Arabs have high expectations of Japan, with its good communications with the U.S. Government, regarding the planned Moscow conference, the officials said.

Watanabe said he would attend the Moscow meeting and plans to jointly head a committee there on economic matters relating to the Middle East peace process.

Watanabe told Al-Husayni that Tokyo opposes Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, but said the Palestinian side must also adopt flexible, realistic positions, the officials said.

Transport Minister Okuda Leaves for New Zealand

OW1301112492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japanese Transport Minter Keiwa Okuda left Monday for Wellington, New Zealand, on a six-day visit for talks aimed at promoting tourism and other ties between the two countries.

Okuda is to hold talks Wednesday with Tourism Minister John Banks on issues related to more than 100,000 annual Japanese visitors to New Zealand.

Japan is New Zealand's third-largest source of tourists, but a sharp drop in the number of Japanese visitors after the Persian Gulf war has only picked up in the last three months, a New Zealand Embassy spokesman said.

On Thursday, Okuda will pay a courtesy call on Finance Minister Ruth Richardson, who is considering a trip to Japan sometime this year, the spokesman said.

Before returning to Japan on Saturday, Okuda is also scheduled to meet with Transport Minister Rob Storey, possibly to discuss the issue of expanding the capacity of air services between the two countries, he said.

No Ban Said on Live Broadcasts of Banquets

OW1301114592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The government will not ban live broadcasts of banquets at the prime minister's official residence, despite a breach of rules when NHK public television aired the videotape of U.S. President George Bush collapsing last week, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said Monday.

Kato confirmed that the cabinet's press section had lodged a protest with Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK), but said that fair access for all media was at issue.

NHK was able to videotape the scene of Bush slumping under the table after falling ill because it was monitoring the dinner with an unmanned camera. However, no news photographers were present at the time.

Kato's statement overruled a statement last Friday by a press section official, who told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that he had informed an NHK director that live coverage would no longer be permitted due to the breach of agreement.

NHK had promised verbally to cover only speeches by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Bush and a toast, and the official said he was concerned that such unauthorized broadcasts could violate privacy.

The official, who refused to be identified, said at the time however that the chief cabinet secretary has final say over the matter.

An NHK spokesman said that it decided to air the dramatic footage to meet its responsibilities as a broadcast medium.

Background of Abe-Kyowa 'Scandal' Summarized

OW1301090292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Prosecutors on Monday raided the offices of former state minister Fumio Abe, a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, on suspicion of taking bribes from Kyowa Corp., a now bankrupt steel-frame maker at the center of the cash-for-favors scandal.

Prosecutors announced the clampdown at a news conference at the joint office building of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office, the Tokyo High Prosecutors Office, and the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office.

Prosecutors from the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office searched his office in the House of Representatives legislators' office building in Nagata-cho and his Hakodate office in Hokkaido.

Asked by reporters about the raids, Miyazawa said, "I haven't heard about them yet."

The raids came shortly after Abe, a former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, was hospitalized with an unspecified illness.

Prosecutors are expected to arrest Abe later in the day on suspicion of taking bribes, according to sources close to the special investigating squad of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors office.

Authoritative sources told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that Abe attended a 1989 Kyowa party and spoke of his close relationship with the company's vice president, Goro Moriguchi, a central figure in the scandal who is now on trial on fraud charges.

The sources close to the investigation said prosecutors suspect Be took the 80 million yen in bribes to use his influence and access to official information to boost Kyowa's business chances on semipublic works projects.

Kyowa requested that Abe use his good offices to help it win lucrative construction contracts for the White Dome semipublic project in Sapporo and to obtain information on a planned route of a highway at a Kamiiso area in Hokkaido, where it was to build the Jurakuen resort, the sources said.

In a recent newspaper interview, Abe acknowledged receiving 100 million yen from Kyowa, but denied allegations that he provided favors in exchange for money.

Abe, 69, has been elected seven times to the House of Representatives from the No. 3 constituency in Hokkaido since 1969.

He served as director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies from August 1989 to February 1990 under Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Abe became secretary general of the Miyazawa faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in April last year.

Abe resigned the post in December following press reports that he had received more than 500 million yen from Kyowa. Kyowa went bankrupt in November with debts of some 200 billion yen.

The sources said prosecutors believe some 80 million yen of the 500 million yen was a bribe to seek Abe's compliance with Kyowa's requests regarding the projects.

Some of the 500 million yen also went to Abe's 1990 re-election campaign fund, the sources said.

The White Dome in question is planned as a 25.2 billion yen, all-weather stadium with a huge white covering to be funded by the Hokkaido prefectural government, Sapporo city, and a number of private firms.

Prosecutors also suspect Abe suggested to Kyowa that he may use his influence to obtain public funds for projects to improve the infrastructure of the area surrounding the dome project, the sources said.

Kyowa acquired Jurakuen, a traditional Japanese-style garden in Abe's district, in June 1989 and began developing it as a resort after obtaining the unpublished information that the Hokkaido Development Agency privately designated the area as a candidate for a major highway, the sources said.

Moriguchi is being tried on charges of defrauding two trading houses of 3.65 billion yen in 1990 by fabricating contract documents for fictitious steel frame orders, allegedly conspiring with a senior official of Marubeni Corp., a major trading company.

Moriguchi allegedly requested Abe's collaboration in hushing up the allegedly fraudulent frame orders conducted with the Marubeni official in May, 1989, and the request led Abe to start demanding money from Kyowa, the sources said.

Miyazawa Comments on Reports

OW1301122492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1213 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Prosecutors Monday arrested former cabinet minister Fumio Abe, a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, on suspicion of taking bribes from a now bankrupt steel-frame maker.

Abe, a House of Representatives member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was a former secretary general of the LDP's second largest faction led by Miyazawa.

He served in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Miyazawa's immediate predecessor, as director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies. [passage omitted]

Miyazawa told reporters he has not heard about the raids.

Miyazawa, however, dismissed press reports that a portion of the funds Abe received from Kyowa went to his quest for the LDP presidency and hence prime ministership last year.

Opposition parties have already vowed to press the government to determine the facts regarding the alleged involvement of Abe and other Miyazawa-faction legislators in the Kyowa scam.

"The government regrets the raids on a person who once held the portfolio of a cabinet minister," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference. "The government seriously took the raids as an issue of money politics urging (greater) political ethics," said Kato, a senior member of the Miyazawa faction. "I am deeply troubled as his comrade (belonging to the same Miyazawa faction)," he said. [passage omitted]

'Shock Waves' Sweep Ruling LDP

OW1301172592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1533 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Shock waves swept through the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Monday as prosecutors arrested former cabinet minister Fumio Abe, a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, on suspicion of accepting bribes.

Abe is suspected of taking 80 million yen in bribes between August 1989 and January 1990 from Kyowa Corp., a now bankrupt maker of steel frames also involved in land development schemes.

Sources close to the investigation say the bribes were part of some 500 million yen the firm paid to Abe, who headed the Hokkaido Development Agency from August 1989 to February 1990.

Abe, a veteran LDP lawmaker of the House of Representatives, was secretary general of the LDP's second largest faction led by Miyazawa from last April to

December. He was forced to quit the post following press reports that he received funds from Kyowa.

Abe's role as faction secretary general meant he was its virtual manager and treasurer, political sources said.

He became director general of the Hokkaido Development Agency in the cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu after Kaifu's predecessors were toppled amid a string of bribery and sex scandals.

Political analysts said the reputation of both Miyazawa and the ruling party will suffer, as the bribe taking allegedly took place under the administration of Kaifu, who was dubbed "Mr. Clean." Kaifu vowed to "stake political career on the political reforms."

Abe tendered his letter of resignation as a member of the ruling party immediately after his arrest but has vowed to hold on to his seat in the Diet, his aides said.

Earlier Monday, prosecutors raided Abe's office in a House of Representatives' building for its members in Tokyo and Abe's office in Hokkaido.

"I really regret (the raids)," Miyazawa told reporters at his official residence, adding "he (Abe) worked very hard on behalf of my group (Miyazawa faction)."

But Miyazawa denied press reports that some 120 million yen out of the 500 million yen received by Abe was used to help him in his 1991 quest for the prime ministership.

Prosecutors believe Abe took cash in posh restaurants and other places in Tokyo in exchange for his influence and information to facilitate Kyowa's access to billions of yen worth of public works projects in Hokkaido.

Abe had been hospitalized for an unspecified illness at a Tokyo hospital since Sunday night as speculation in the press mounted that his arrest was imminent.

He was taken to the Tokyo detention house on Monday night after prosecutors determined that he was healthy enough to be arrested.

The arrest of the incumbent Diet member is the first since the 1976 Lockheed payoff scandal. In the 1988-1989 Recruit stock-for-favors scandal, some of politicians tainted were indicted without being taken into custody.

Former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was arrested in 1976 and later convicted for taking 500 million yen in bribes from Lockheed Corp. of the United States. Two other senior LDP legislators were also apprehended in the scandal.

A dozen other locations were also raided for hard evidence linking Abe to the Kyowa bribery scandal.

Opposition parties have already vowed to press the government to determine the facts regarding the alleged involvement of Abe and other Miyazawa-faction legislators in the Kyowa scam.

"The government regrets the raids on a person who once held the portfolio of a cabinet minister," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference.

"The government seriously takes the raids as an issue of money politics indicating the greater need for political ethics," said Kato, a senior member of the Miyazawa faction. "I am deeply troubled as his comrade."

Authoritative sources told KYODO News Service that Abe attended a 1989 Kyowa year-end party and spoke of his close relationship with the company's vice president, Goro Moriguchi, a central figure in the scandal who is now standing trial on fraud charges.

Prosecutors rearrested Moriguchi on Monday for allegedly bribing Abe.

Kyowa apparently hoped the bribes would boost its chances of landing semipublic works projects in Hokkaido by securing advance information about the planned sites of such projects as the White Dome Stadium in Sapporo and a 70-kilometer stretch of highway in southern Hokkaido.

Kyowa allegedly asked Abe to help it and its affiliates win construction contracts for the White Dome project and obtain information on the planned highway in the Kamiiso area of Hokkaido, where it was to build the Jurakuen Resort Garden, the sources said.

White Dome is a 25.2 billion yen, all-weather stadium featuring a huge rotational white roof to be funded by the Hokkaido prefectural government, Sapporo's municipal office, and a number of private firms.

Abe gave an unpublished map showing the planned highway route to Kyowa in exchange for the money, prosecutors said.

Kyowa acquired Jurakuen, a traditional Japanese-style garden in Abe's electoral district, in June 1989 and began developing it as a resort after obtaining unpublished information that the Hokkaido development agency privately designated the area as a candidate for a major highway, the sources said.

Abe acknowledged receiving 100 million yen from Kyowa in a recent newspaper interview but denied allegations that he provided favors in exchange for money.

The 69-year-old Abe has been elected seven times since 1969 to the House of Representatives from Hokkaido's No. 3 constituency.

Kyowa went bankrupt last November with debts of some 200 billion yen.

Prosecutors said Abe complied with Kyowa's request that he use his good offices to have the Hokkaido and Tohoku Public Corp., a government lending institution under Abe's jurisdiction, provide low-interest loans to Kyowa to finance its planned resort in the Kamiiso area.

Goro Moriguchi is being tried on charges of defrauding two trading houses of 3.65 billion yen in 1990 by fabricating contract documents for fictitious steel frame orders in collusion with a senior official of Marubeni Corp., a major trading company.

Moriguchi allegedly sought Abe's help in May 1989 in an effort to conceal the fraud.

The request reportedly prompted Abe to start demanding money from Kyowa, the sources said.

Prosecutors 'Ready' To Prosecute Diet Member

OW1201114092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—The Tokyo Metropolitan Public Prosecutors Office appears ready to prosecute former cabinet member Fumio Abe for allegedly having demanded hush money from Kyowa Corp., a defunct steel frame processing firm, authoritative sources said Sunday.

The office is close to concluding that Abe, a former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, received "tens of million yen" in donations from Kyowa, the sources said.

Abe is a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The prosecutors office will consult with the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office and the Tokyo High Prosecutors Office to decide as early as this week whether to interrogate Abe in connection with the case, the sources said.

Abe is suspected of having received as much as some 500 million yen from Kyowa as part of funds for the February 1990 general election.

Kyowa apparently sought Abe's favors in its golf course and resort development in Hokkaido in northern Japan in cooperation with Marubeni Corp., a major trading company.

Marubeni's internal investigation has revealed that Kyowa's alleged swindle of Marubeni's steel project operations division began around May 1988, according to the sources.

The Marubeni division canceled its project with Kyowa and indicated it would seek reimbursement.

When Kyowa could not repay the amount by May 1989 and Vice President Goro Moriguchi asked Abe not to reveal the incident. [sentence as received] Abe then began to demand hush money from Moriguchi, the sources said.

Abe Arrest Sparks Call for Corruption Crackdown

OW1401051992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0504 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Leading Japanese newspapers in their editorials Tuesday demanded a crackdown on political corruption following the arrest Monday of former cabinet minister Fumio Abe on suspicion of accepting bribes.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN called the case of Abe, former director general of the Hokkaido Development Agency and a member of the House of Representatives, a "new shameful event in the history of the country's politics."

The ASAHI said it was a result of politicians' failure to learn the lessons of the Recruit stocks-for-favors scandal.

Abe also served as the secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) faction of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa from last April to December, and resigned that post when the scandal came to light.

The ASAHI said Abe's case could shake the Miyazawa cabinet, which was formed last November, and said the prime minister and leaders of the ruling LDP must take the case seriously.

Prosecutors arrested Abe on suspicion of taking 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Corp., a now bankrupt steel frame manufacturer, in exchange for using his influence and providing information to facilitate the company's access to billions of yen worth of public works projects in Hokkaido.

The ASAHI said the case is typical of the "reverse side" of Japan's politics, in which the post of a cabinet minister is often used as "a tool for concessions."

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN said Abe's case is "the filthiest and most completely out of control" of the 15 major postwar corruption cases involving Diet members, in which some 40 legislators were either arrested or indicted.

The arrest of Abe is the first of an incumbent Diet member since the 1976 Lockheed payoff scandal, in which former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was arrested and convicted of taking 500 million yen in bribes from Lockheed Corp. of the United States.

In the 1988-1989 Recruit scandal, some politicians were indicted without being taken into custody.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Abe played "a major role in maneuvering to realize the Miyazawa cabinet" as a top member of the Miyazawa faction.

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN called on Miyazawa to struggle hard with political reforms, because "it is so miserable for the public to have a Diet which has to deal with scandals all the time," when both the country and the world is rapidly changing.

Former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu had to give up running in the LDP presidential election in October after three political reform bills on which he had vowed to stake his political career were killed by the Diet.

The MAINICHI said it is wrong to regard Abe's case as merely a politician's misdeed. It said the case is only the tip of an iceberg because it is "an inevitable consequence" of the country's political system which requires large amounts of money.

Business Leader Urges Speedy Political Reform

OW1301102692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—The head of Japan's most powerful business organization called Monday for quick political reform to prevent further bribery scandals.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), made the appeal in connection with a bribery scandal involving former state minister Fumio Abe.

Abe, a senior ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) member of the House of Representatives and former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, was suspected of taking bribes worth hundreds of millions of yen from a bankrupt steel-frame manufacturing company.

Abe, who was hospitalized in Tokyo on Monday, may soon be taken into custody for questioning, sources close to public prosecutors said.

"A series of scandals have occurred since the outbreak of the Recruit scandal, and the current political situation is a far cry from normal," Hiraiwa told reporters.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), also urged the LDP to draw up political reform plans before the upcoming House of Councillors election this summer.

Kyowa Allegedly Gave Funds to Zenko Suzuki

OW1401155492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1507 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Kyowa Co., at the center of a growing bribery scandal, gave 160 million yen to former cabinet minister Fumio Abe to obtain former Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki's help in securing permission to develop a golf course, informed sources said Tuesday.

Kyowa, a steel frame maker which went bankrupt in November 1990, planned to open the golf course in 1993 in the hamlet of Ogawa in Akagun County, Ibaraki Prefecture.

But the company was having a hard time obtaining permits from the governor of the prefecture to begin work on the course.

Kyowa got the green light after handing over money to Abe, who was arrested Monday for allegedly accepting bribes in connection with public work projects in Hokkaido, the sources said.

Suzuki, 81, is a former leader of the Liberal Democratic Party's "Kochikai," a faction now headed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The Miyazawa faction has been rocked by press reports that Abe, former faction treasurer, and a dozen other politicians belonging to the faction which received money from Kyowa.

Abe was arrested on charges of taking some 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa in exchange for his influence and privileged access to official information on public works projects while head of the Hokkaido Development Agency.

The 160 million yen was turned over to Abe in three installments in 1989 and 1990, in his ministerial limousine and near the Diet building in Tokyo's Nagatacho Ward, after Abe told Kyowa the money was needed to win Suzuki's help, the sources said.

After receiving the money, Suzuki agreed to Kyowa's request to assume the post of honorary chairman of the "Kojimachi Club," an exclusive private club planned by Kyowa in Tokyo's chic Kojimachi area, they said.

Abe and Kyowa Vice President Goro Moriguchi—now on trial on fraud charges—jointly visited Suzuki in the autumn of 1989 to request that he assume the post, the sources said. Moriguchi was rearrested Monday on suspicion of bribing Abe.

Abe told Moriguchi in 1989 that Kyowa would have to hand over money to Suzuki to secure his consent to assume the post, the sources said.

Suzuki agreed to take the post in May 1990—one month after Kyowa gave 100 million yen to Abe in the third of such hand-overs—on condition that he would do so only after the golf course was completed and after the club's other board governors requested that he take the post.

When asked about the allegations by KYODO on Tuesday, Suzuki's political secretary, Kunihisa Uchizawa, denied receiving "any political donations at all" from Kyowa through Abe, saying the former premier "has not received any request or money in connection with the golf course."

The Kojimachi Club project broke down after Kyowa went under in November 1990 with debts of 200 billion yen.

Suzuki attended a ceremony commemorating the completion of a Kyowa factory in Kyushu in April 1990, as well as dinner meetings sponsored by Kyowa, the sources said.

Ozawa Hospitalized for Routine Heart Checkup

OW1201084292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0759 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, former secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, was hospitalized Sunday for a checkup of his heart ailment, aides said.

They said Ozawa, who suffered a heart attack last year, will remain at the Nippon Medical School Hospital in Bunkyo ward for about 10 days.

One of the most powerful Japanese politicians, Ozawa, 49, was stricken with the heart attack last June and spent 42 days at the same hospital.

His office said the medical checkup was a routine procedure after such a heart ailment.

Panel Drafts Financial System Reform Plan

OW1401140092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—A Finance Ministry advisory panel has drafted a proposal aimed at reforming the financial market in order to prevent further scandals involving brokerages and banking institutions, ministry officials said Tuesday.

The proposal also calls for enhancing competition by making it easier for new firms to enter the financial market, the officials said.

More complete disclosure of data on financial institutions, including bad assets held by banks and their contributions to the community, were also advised.

The panel further suggested that the ministry monitor the business performance of financial institutions more thoroughly, they said.

The proposal was worked out at a follow-up meeting of the Financial System Research Council, an advisory panel to the finance minister which has been working on measures to prevent financial scandals, the officials said.

Recommendations will be incorporated in a final report to be submitted to Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on January 29, they said.

Council members at the meeting blamed management's profit-oriented policy amid the "bubble" economy for the series of financial scandals which surfaced last summer, they said.

They said the council will also advise the ministry to improve the transparency of its administrative policy by eliminating outdated directives.

The ministry will introduce a bill to revise laws governing banking operations, including regulations on the capital-to-asset ratio at commercial banks, at the regular session of the Diet opening January 24.

Plan To Boost Taxes by 737 Billion Yen Adopted

OW1001022292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0125 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The government formally endorsed a plan to overhaul the nation's tax system Friday that would raise an additional 737 billion yen in taxes for fiscal 1992 starting April 1.

The tax reform package, approved by the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa but still subject to Diet approval, features a new special corporate tax and the continuation of a tax surcharge on cars, while the auto tax is to be reduced from 6 percent to 4.5 percent, officials said.

The special tax on cars is higher than the 3 percent standard consumption tax, which was introduced in April 1989. It had been expected to be cut to 3 percent.

The new corporate tax would require companies to pay a 2.5 percent surcharge on their tax payments for two years starting in the fiscal year that begins in April.

These tax hikes are intended to make up for an expected revenue shortfall of some 2.2 trillion yen, which results from the expiration of temporary taxes imposed last April to pay for Japan's contributions to the Persian Gulf war.

The government expects the new taxes, together with a new land tax that took effect this month, to bring in an additional 737 billion yen in taxes, including 200 billion yen from the new land tax.

The government intends to submit the tax reform package to the Diet on January 24, when it convenes a regular session.

Opposition Diet members have voiced strong criticism of the proposals and Diet debate on the package is expected to be acrimonious.

Banks Cut 'Super,' Large-Lot Deposit Rates

OW1301041792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0332 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 (KYODO)—Eleven major Japanese commercial banks lowered their rates on so-called "super" and large-lot time deposits Monday in line with lower short-term money market rates.

Rates on three-month "super" deposits were cut by a maximum of 0.4 percentage point to between 4.20 and 4.50 percent per year, and those on six-month deposits to between 4.55 and 4.60 percent annually.

New rates on three-month and six-month large-lot deposits were annual 4.65 to 4.80 percent and 4.55 to 4.65 percent, respectively.

"Super" deposits are time deposits of between 3 million and less than 10 million yen, while large-lot deposits range upward from 10 million yen.

In a related development, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry cut its rates on three-month and six-month postal savings of between 3 million and less than 10 million yen, by 0.15 percentage point to 4.55 percent per annum and by 0.3 point to 4.70 percent, respectively.

Miyazawa Proposes New Five-Year Economic Plan

OW1401025992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0242 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa proposed Tuesday the drawing up of a new five-year economic plan designed to help the Japanese people enjoy a "richer life" by giving consumers a better deal, starting in fiscal 1992, government sources said.

Miyazawa has decided to attach greater importance to consumers' well-being and economic fairness rather than economic efficiency in pursuing the new economic scheme, the outline of which he presented at a meeting of the Economic Council, the sources said.

They said the plan is aimed at making each citizen feel real prosperity and developing a balanced local economic society, unlike the current five-year economic program of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, which promotes a domestic-demand-driven economic structure.

Acting on Miyazawa's proposal, the Economic Council, an advisory body to the prime minister, will make up an interim report by the end of March at the earliest and submit a final recommendation by early July before the summit meeting in Munich of seven industrial nations, the sources said.

Miyazawa, outlining his new economic plan, said, "We have to pay much more attention to consumers and national life than to producers, and must change our economic society so that full consideration be given not only to efficiency but to fairness," according to the sources.

Among Miyazawa's proposals are realization of a life where each citizen can feel real wealth and comfort, preparation of the foundations for development of the economy in the next century, and guiding the operation of the nation's economy to positively tackle global challenges and contribute to the world, they said.

At Miyazawa's request, the Economic Council decided to set up four working groups to study the areas of a richer life, planning and fairness, development foundations, and global challenges.

The government will select some 25 members for each working group by the end of this month to start detailed discussion.

Mieno Dismisses Discount Rate Cut Expectation

OW1401073992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0657 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno on Tuesday dismissed persistent expectations in the market of another cut in the official discount rate, saying interest rates are low enough to encourage corporate investment.

Mieno said in an exclusive interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE a further cut would create adverse economic effects, as seen during the apex of the recent "bubble" economy.

"Domestic interest rates have declined to the level where corporate capital spending pays off quite well," he said.

"A further lowering would do unfavorable things (to the economy)."

The governor said both long- and short-term prime rates have fallen by 2.0 to 2.4 percentage points from their peak to where they were when the official discount rate was 3.75 percent. The rate is now 4.5 percent after being cut by 0.5 point December 30.

The central bank cut the benchmark lending rate to prop up the sagging economy.

But there are still lingering expectations in the financial market of a further reduction as the economy is yet to show signs of a major upturn.

The recent visit by U.S. President George Bush to Japan fueled such speculation as a joint macroeconomics statement released by Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa stressed the importance of brisk growth in the major industrial economies.

Mieno, however, said he doesn't view the statement as demonstration of a policy that places top priority on economic growth.

"The statement only called for sustainable growth with price stability," not a policy that puts growth above everything without considering the economic conditions of each country, he said.

Asked about the possibility of Japan achieving 3.5 percent real economic growth in fiscal 1992, Mieno said, "what matters most now is to engineer a smooth shift to a balanced growth, not whether the growth figure is high or low."

"The financial conditions in Japan are already sufficiently conducive for such a shift," he said.

Mieno also suggested the yen's current uptrend is acceptable.

He said he has no intention of differing from the view on the foreign exchange market expressed in the Bush-Miyazawa statement, which apparently endorsed the trend.

Mieno reiterated the currency market should stabilize in the direction of a strong yen.

"A weak yen is undesirable because it would create inflationary pressures in Japan and further boost Japan's exports," he said.

But he refused to comment directly on the yen's current level.

On the health of the Japanese economy, Mieno said the slowdown will continue for a while as inventories and capital spending stock are being adjusted.

But corporate investments remain brisk, aimed at shoring up research and development or streamlining, he noted.

Moreover, he said the decline of the long-term prime lending rate, applicable to loans of one year and more to most creditworthy clients, will underpin companies' appetite for capital spending.

Consumer spending will also remain strong, supported by the tight labor market, the central bank chief said.

Mieno said a sharp downturn of the ecomony is not likely.

"The adjustment period will continue for a while, but the economy will eventually pick up toward a balanced growth," he said.

"The pace of growth (in the past few years) was too fast, and created various bad effects in the economy, such as speculation bubbles, the labor squeeze, and potential inflation."

"You can't expect the Japanese economy to keep growing at a 5 percent annual clip," he said.

"We are now in a transition period to a balanced growth, and that is good for the Japanese economy."

Mieno criticized the perception in business circles the official discount rate is the principal instrument for boosting the economy.

Small Firms Reportedly Downbeat About Business

OW1401091292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0748 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 14 KYODO—Japan's smaller companies grew increasingly bearish about their businesses in the last quarter of 1991 as a slowing economy was dampening demand, according to a government survey published Tuesday.

The overall-sector business sentiment index for smaller companies stayed in the minus column at minus 6.8 during the October-December quarter, compared with the minus 0.2 reported in the previous quarter, said the small and medium enterprise agency.

The index by the agency, affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), represents the percentage of companies that feel their business is going well minus the percentage holding pessimistic views.

"We were stunned that the index plunged into the minus side in the previous survey. But now we are facing an even worse situation," an agency official said, attributing the results to slower domestic demand.

Though welcoming the recent credit easing by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) as "a timely move," the official cautioned that whether the 0.5 percentage point rate cut can buttress flagging business confidence hinges on how much it helps bring down lending rates for smaller firms.

"We are closely monitoring how much real interest rates will fall as a result of the credit relaxation," he said.

The survey, based on an inquiry conducted in early December on about 17,500 smaller firms, also found the overall-sector sales index stood at 5.8 in last year's final quarter, down from 11.1 in the July-September period.

The index on pretax profits came to minus 9.3, compared with minus 3.7 recrded in the third quarter.

The study also showed smaller businesses project even bleaker business prospects for the January-March period, with the index on business confidence, pretax profits, and sales at minus 17.3, minus 19.4, and minus 13.8, respectively.

Company Develops High-Speed Translation Machine

OW1301102592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0916 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 13 KYODO—Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. has developed a computerised translation machine that can render about 45,000 Japanese words into English per hour, company officials said Monday.

The integration of a kind of neural network with the translation programming language and a high performance computer workstation enables the high-speed translation, the officials said.

Neural computer networks are designed to act in a similar way to the human brain in making decisions.

Matsushita's new system uses a conceptual transfer technique which converts Japanese sentences into a conceptual form. This concept is then transferred to an equivalent English structure to generate the translated sentence.

For example, the Japanese sentence "Kare wa shichu no aji o mita" is transferred by the machine to the English sentence "He saw the taste of the stew." The final translation is then written as "He tasted the stew."

The system also adopts a modifying network, which comprises the neural network, to enable the computer to decide which grammatical rules to apply to a particular phrase and to eliminate any ambiguities in the translation.

In addition, an interactive mode permits computer users to interact with the computer and help the machine choose the correct path of analysis when it goes off track, to achieve the desired translation.

The company's previous machine translated 30,000 words in an hour, the officials said.

Although Matsushita is yet to consider whether to market the system, it will display the computer at the machine translation symposium in Osaka on January 14, they said.

Reportage on Opposition Leader's Visit to China

WA1301155792

For reportage on the visit by oppostion leader Makoto Tanabe to China, including reports on his talks with Chinese Premier Li Peng and Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, please see the Northeast Asia section of the 10 January China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Mongolia

Official Gives Details of New Constitution

LD1301151592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A new constitution was adopted in Mongolia today.

[Begin N. Batbayar, deputy speaker of the Great People's Hural, recording in Mongolian fading into Russian translation—caption-identified] The country's new constitution has five key points. First and foremost, the country's name will now be Republic of Mongolia. The next point is the emphasis on a mixed economy—above all, the right to pass land into private ownership. Third, the constitution guarantees human rights in accordance with the UN Charter. Fourth, Mongolia must become a republic with a parliamentary form of government. Finally, we have at last reached agreement on elections to choose the country's president. He will be chosen in a general election. [end recording]

Terms of Leaders Delineated

HK1401100792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Beijing, Jan 14 (AFP)—Mongolia's next president will be directly elected, officials in Ulaanbaatar said Tuesday, the day after its parliament adopted a new constitution.

The new constitution, which is to take effect February 12, officially ends 70 years of communism in Mongolia, which becomes a parliamentary democracy.

The People's Great Hural, or parliament, adopted the constitution with a vote of 328 for, one against and two abstentions, Foreign Ministry spokesman Terbishiin Chimiddorj said by telephone from Ulaanbaatar.

Current Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat was elected in September 1990 by the Great Hural, while his successor is to be directly elected in polls to be held late this year or in June 1993, Chimiddorj said.

The new president and vice president will have four-year terms, renewable once, he added.

The parliament, which will sit for two 75-day sessions each year, will become unicameral with the elimination of the Little Hural, the assembly's permanent committee created last year.

The Great Hural, still in session Tuesday, was expected to set a date for legislative elections, which may be held in June, and the presidential elections.

The 21st Congress of the ruling communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP), which was originally set for December 25-27, was postponed, first to January, and now to February at a date yet to be set, the spokesman said.

Mongolia, after its quiet revolution in the spring of 1990, became the first Asian country to break with Moscow, opting for political pluralism and a switch to a free-market economy.

In their first taste of democracy in July 1990, Mongolians returned the MPRP to power, but seated 20 opposition members in the Great Hural for the first time.

Under the new constitution, Mongolia drops "People's Republic" from the country's name.

Economy 'Connected With' Internal Soviet Issue

LD1201190392 Moscow TASS in English 1349 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Dugar Sanjiev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar January 12 TASS—Commenting on the results of the social and economic development of Mongolia in 1991, the newspaper UNEN today concludes that the downturn in Mongolia's economic development, a considerable contraction of the country's foreign-trade turnover, in particular, is in many respects connected with the upsetting of internal economic ties in the former Soviet Union and changes in East European countries.

According to the data published in the local press by the state statistical board on Friday, Mongolia's foreign-trade turnover contracted by 58.6 per cent last year as compared with 1990, with export diminishing by 55 per cent and import by 61.1 per cent.

This bore most heavily on the operation of industrial enterprises which are largely oriented towards foreign deliveries, UNEN points out.

As far as internal causes of the recession in the social and economic development of the country are concerned, the newspaper points to a decline in labour discipline and in the organisation of production.

North Korea

Delegates Exchange Copies of Nuclear Declaration

SK1401093092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0900 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 14 January at 1500 the North and South delegates for the North-South high-level talks met in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom to exchange copies of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.

One delegate and one entourage member from each side participated in the contacts.

They exchanged copies of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula signed by the prime ministers of both sides.

The next delegates' contact is slated for 21 January.

Daily: South Must Reject 'Outside Interference'

SK1101102292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 11 Jan 92

["Inter-Korean Agreement Must Be Implemented"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities must not follow in the criminal footsteps of the former rulers who had openly declared it their policy to create "two Koreas" but implement the historical "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" in deeds so that it may not remain a sheet of paper, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The paper says:

If the agreement already adopted by the North and the South is to fructify practically in ensuring peace in the country and achieving its reunification, they should take a correct viewpoint and stance with which to honestly implement the agreement with the steadfast independent stand in keeping with the interests and requirements of the nation.

Without the independent stand it will be impossible to resolve any problem concerning the reunification of the country in conformity with the interests and demands of the Korean nation and with the expectation of the world people, let alone the implementation of the North-South agreement.

The South Korean authorities must adopt the independent stand to solve the reunification question of the country by the internal forces of the nation, discarding their anachronistic concept of dependence upon outside forces, since, through the adoption of the inter-Korean agreement, they promised before the nation to settle the reunification question of the country by the concerted efforts of the nation in step with the trend of the times toward independence.

If the inter-Korean agreement is to be implemented satisfactorily, the South Korean authorities must honestly accede to the tireless sincere efforts of our side to solve the reunification question by relying on the internal forces of our nation without any interference of outside forces.

The South Korean authorities must reject the dependence upon the outside forces and take the stand of national independence.

If they truly intend to implement the inter-Korean agreement, they must boldly abandon the anachronistic old way of existence in which they have left their destinies at the tender mercy of others and lived under their "protection," plagued by the concept of dependence on outside forces, and rely upon the independent forces of the nation, not upon the outside forces which are responsible for the national division.

Since they promised us to settle the question of peace and reunification of the country by the internal forces of the nation they should call for the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialist aggressor troops, the chief obstacle that disturbs peace in the country and bars the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, and reject the unjustifiable interference of the United States in the reunification question of the country.

It is no use talking about the "implementation of the agreement" without any practical deeds.

For the smooth implementation of the inter-Korean agreement which confirmed the reunification will of all the fellow countrymen, it is essential to oppose the outside interference in the internal affairs of South Korea and refrain from suppressing the patriotic people who are fighting for an independent reunification of the country.

The South Korean authorities must not pay lip-service to "reunification" but show their reunification will in deeds such as supporting and encouraging the patriotic people in the struggle against the United States and for independence and reunification, refraining from bayonet suppression of them and releasing pro-reunification visitors to the North.

Daily Says World Supremacy Goal of Imperialists

SK1001135692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 10 Jan 92

["World Supremacy Is Goal of Imperialists' Strategy"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—The goal of the imperialists' strategy at present is to totally obliterate socialism, revive the colonialist system and thus realise their domination over the world, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The imperialists, first of all, are manoeuvring to completely obliterate socialism in a bid to realise their domination over the world, the article notes, and stresses:

They are resorting to the policy of strength and the strategy of "peaceful transition" to keep off the influence of socialism and disintegrate socialist [word indistinct] from within.

The U.S. reactionary ruling circles are now describing the failure of socialism in some countries as "victory" of capitalism over socialism and as "collapse" and "termination" of socialism and leading those countries to the revival of capitalism. Their ultimate purpose is to totally destroy socialism and bring socialist countries under their domination.

The United States is scheming to stifle the socialist countries with military and political pressure and threat, economic blockade and ideological and cultural offensive.

It, above all, is attempting to put a military pressure on the DPRK and threaten it.

It also intends to send the wind of "liberalization" into the DPRK and disintegrate it from within and overthrow our socialist system.

It is trying not only to force its aggressive and dominationist demand and will on Third World countries by force, bribe them with dollars and subordinate them to it but also to benumb the spirit of national independence and anti-imperialist consciousness of those peoples and inculcate American-style democracy in their minds through ideological and cultural infiltration. What is more serious is that the United States regards the revival of the colonialist system as the main tasks of its state strategy and is going ahead with the "new military strategy" and the "strategy for the settlement of regional disputes" to fulfil them.

The United States intends to revive the colonialist system by means of military adventure and expand it all over the world. Herein lies the reactionary nature and danger of the U.S. imperialists' "new strategy" and their "new world order" doctrine. The U.S. authorities recently blared that the United States, as a Pacific state, would not quit this region but "reaffirms" the continued presence of the U.S. Forces in this region and "its scurity commitments" to it. In this they openly revealed their design to establish an order of their domination and control in the Asian-Pacific region.

The U.S. imperialists declared the Middle East, Central America and other parts of the world regions linked to the interests and security of the United States and are now attempting to establish the same order in those regions.

It is an anachronistic daydream for the U.S.-led imperialists to try to dominate the world by totally destroying socialism and reviving the colonialist system.

History may encounter turns and twists in the process of its progress. But the main direction of the developing history toward an independent, new world cannot change.

Daily Views Israel's Expelling 12 Palestinians

SK1101050092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 11 Jan 92

["Outrage of Occupiers"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—Israel decided to expel twelve Palestinian patriots from the occupied land entering this year.

This is a deliberate act to intentionally lay an obstacle to the efforts for ensuring a sweeping and fair peace in the Middle East, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says, and continues:

Though Israel came out to the negotiating table for Mideast peace, bowing to the international pressure, it has not given up its design to annex the Arab land it is illegally occupying.

While trying to dull the pressure and denunciation by the international community by pretending to be interested in ensuring peace in the Middle East, Israel intends to gratify its ambition, procrastinating the negotiations for an indefinite period.

Israel's decision to expel the twelve Palestinian patriots is also aimed at cracking down upon the ceaseless uprisings of the Palestinian people in the occupied land and thus take the edge off their anti-Israel struggle.

The Zionists' strategic goal is to Israelize the occupied land and, further, set up a "great empire of Israel". This is why Israel is pushing along with the building of Jewish "settlements" in the land under its occupation. Its design is a token of the worn-out thinking-pattern and it is a daydream.

Israel's moves to annex Arab land are a criminal act against the trend of the time toward independence, sovereignty and peace. If it persistently resorts to the policy of territorial expansion, ignoring the people's desire and the demand of the time, it will be isolated and rejected worldwide still further.

Israel must quit the Arab land it is occupying and sincerely approach the negotiations for Mideast peace.

Yang Hyong-sop Meets Mongolian Ambassador 13 Jan

SK1301102892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—Chairman Yang Hyong-sop of the Supreme People's Assembly met and conversed with Mongolian ambassador to the DPRK Sh. Gungaadorj who paid a courtesy call on him at the Mansudae Assembly hall today.

Mongolian, Japanese Visitors Arrive in Pyongyang

SK1401111592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 14 (KCNA)—A government delegation of Mongolia headed by J. Batsuuri, minister of national development, a delegation of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea headed by its Director General Shuhachi Inoue and a delegation of the Buraku Liberation League of Japan headed by Secretary General of its central headquarters Tatsukuni Komori, member of the House of Representatives, arrived here today.

Koreans in Japan Demand Stop to Team Spirit

SK1401104592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo January 12 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—The Society of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification January 10 issued a statement on the decision of the United States and South Korean authorities not to stage the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises this year.

The statement noted that the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres with the DPRK as the "enemy" are an extremely dangerous preliminary war, a test nuclear war, which threatens the existence of our nation and the peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

It demanded that the South Korean authorities stop the "Team Spirit" going against the reconciliation and unity of the nation, the peace of the country and its peaceful reunification not this year alone, but give it up for good and all, and renounce all other military exercises.

The United States, the statement says, must not go against the trend of the times toward reconciliation and peace but withdraw its troops from South Korea and give a responsible answer as regards the withdrawal of nuclear weapons. The society of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification will vigorously wage the anti-war, anti-nuclear peace movement and continue to make all efforts for the peace in our country and the promotion of peaceful reunification under the banner of great national unity, declared the statement.

Chongnyon Group Examines Kim Il-song's Address

SK1301053592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo January 11 (KNS-KCNA)—A national meeting of Korean activists in Japan was held in Tokyo to carry out the 1992 tasks of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) more successfully in hearty response to the new year's teachings of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song. Present there were Chairman Han Tok-su, First Vice-chairman Yi Ain-kyu and Vice-chairman Pak Chae-no of the Central Standing Committee of Chongnyon, and other Chongnyon functionaries and Koreans in Japan.

A congratulatory message sent by Marshal Kim Il-song to Chairman Han Tok-su was read out at the meeting.

Chairman Han Tok-su said in his speech that the respected leader Marshal Kim Il-song in his New Year address summed up the victory won by our people last year and clarified the bright road to effect a new upswing in socialist construction and accelerate the reunification of the country this year.

Noting that the great leader clearly indicated the road to be followed by Chongnyon and compatriots in Japan this year, the speaker stressed the need to further strengthen Chongnyon organisations at all levels this year and defend and expand all the democratic and national rights including the human rights, right to living and business right of compatriots.

He also laid emphasis on making more active contributions to the national cause for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification, helping toward early normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations and further strengthening friendship and solidarity with the Japanese people.

Representatives of broad circles of Chongnyon expressed their new year determination at the meeting.

A letter to Marshal Kim Il-song was adopted there.

Kim Pok-sin Meets Hong Kong Business Delegation

SK1301050892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Kim Pok-sin Sunday met and had a friendly talk at the Mansudae Assembly Hall with a delegation of Hong Kong businessmen headed by managing director of Hong Kong Bailida Corporation, Ltd. Wong Lilian.

Present on the occasion was Vice-Chairman of the State Light Industry Commission Yi Pyong-nim.

Kim Il-song Greets Indian Communist Leader

SK1101043592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, sent Friday a congratulatory message to H.S. Surjeet upon his election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Comrade Kim Il-song noted in the message that the election of H.S. Surjeet as general secretary was an expression of deep trust of all the party members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in him.

Expressing the belief that the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties would grow stronger and develop in the future, he sincerely wished the latter greater success in his responsible work to carry out the resolution of the party congress.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Burkinabe President

SK1301103292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message to Blaise Compaore, president and head of state of Burkina Faso, on January 11 in reply to the latter's message of greetings to him upon the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

In the message President Kim Il-song expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will further strengthen and develop, and wishes the Burkinabe president and people greater success in their endeavours for national reconciliation and unity.

Yon Hyong-muk Greets New Guinean Prime Minister

SK1201082692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, sent a message of greetings to Carlos Correia upon his appointment as prime minister of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Believing that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will grow stronger and develop in the future in accordance with the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the message wishes him great success in his responsible work for building a prosperous new society.

Kim Yong-nam Greets New Trinidadian Minister

SK1301045092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Ralph Maraj upon his appointment as foreign minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries would develop more favorably, Kim in the message wished Ralph great success in his responsible work.

WPK Greets Lebanese Communist Party Secretary

SK1401112092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 14 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to George Hawi upon his reelection as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties would continue to strengthen and develop in the future, too, the message wishes him success in his responsible work to implement the decisions of the sixth congress of the party.

Rallies Held on Kim Il-song's New Year Address

SK1301074392

[Editorial report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 1300 GMT on 4 Jan carries a 14-minute report on a rally of agricultural workers held on 4 January at Mangyongdae cooperative farm to implement the tasks set forth by Kim Il-song in his New Year's address of this year. The report says that "the rally was attended by Kang Hyon-su, responsible secretary of Pyongyang city party committee and chairman of Pyongyang City People's Committee, and Pak Su-tong, chairman of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea." The report cites speeches made by the chairman of the primary party committee of the cooperative farm and other functionaries of the farm at the rally.

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 0900 GMT on 6 January carries a recorded report on a Pyongyang city mass rally held on the afternoon of 6 January at Pyongyang Indoor Stadium to implement the tasks set forth by Kim Il-song in his New Year's address of this year. The report says that "the rally was attended by Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and vice premier of the State Administration Council of the DPRK, and Kang Hyon-su, responsible secretary of Pyongyang city party committee and chairman of the Pyongyang City People's Committee." The report cites recorded speeches by

Kang Hyon-su; Yi Sin-cha, chairman of the Pyongyang City Rural Economy Committee; and other functionaries.

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 1100 GMT on 7 January carries a 10 minute-long report on a Chagang Province mass rally held [date and place not mentioned] to implement the tasks set forth by Kim Il-song in his New Year's address this year. The report says that "the rally was attended by Yi Pong-kil, responsible secretary of Chagang provincial party committee and chairman of the Chagang Provincial People's Committee, and Kim Chong-ho, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of Chagang Province." The report cites a recorded speech by Yi Pong-kil.

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 1318 GMT on 7 January carries a 9 minute-long report on a South Hamgyong province mass rally held on 6 January at the Grand Hamhung Theater to implement the tasks set forth by Kim Il-song in his New Year's address of this year. The report says that "the rally was attended by Hyon Chol-kyu, responsible secretary of South Hamgyong provincial party committee and chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee, and Yi Tong-yun, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of South Hamgyong Province."

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 0100 GMT on 9 Janauary carries 12 minute-long Kangwon Province mass rally and South Hwanghae province mass rally held [date and place not mentioned] to implement the tasks set forth by Kim Il-song in his New Year's address of this year. The report cites recorded speeches made at the Kangwon Province mass rally by Yim Hyong-ku, responsible secretary of Kangwon Provincial party committee and chairman of the Kangwon Provincial People's Committee, and at the South Hwanghae Province mass rally by Paek Pom-sua, responsible secretary of South Hwanghae provincial party committee and chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee.

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 1100 GMT on 10 January carries a report on mass rallies held in Kaesong city and Nampo city [date not mentioned] to implement the tasks set forth by Kim Il-song's New Year's address. The report says that "the mass rally in Kaesong city was attended by Yim Su-man, responsible secretary of Kaesong city party committee and chairman of the Kaesong City People's Committee, and Han Kwang-nim, chairman of the Kaesong City Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee." The report also says that "the mass rally of Nampo city was attended by Pak Sung-il, responsible secretary of Nampo city party committee and chairman of the Nampo city People's Committee; Pang Yong-tok, chairman of the Nampo City Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee; and Pyon Sang-pok, chairman of the Nampo City Rural Economy Committee."

Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 0900 GMT on 11 January carries a 10 minute-long recorded report on North Pyongan province mass rally and North Hwanghae Province mass rally held [date and place not given] to implement the tasks set forth in Kim Il-song's New Year's address of this year. The report includes recorded speeches made at the North Pyongan Province mass rally by Kim Hak-pong, responsible secretary of North Pyongan province party committee and chairman of the North Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; Pang Ae-son, chairman of the Rural Economy Committee of North Pyongan Povince; and other personages concerned.

The report includes recorded speeches made at the North Hwanghae Province mass rally by Choe Mun-son, responsible secretary of North Hwanghae Provincial party committee and chairman of the North Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee; Kim Yong-su, chairman of the Rural Economy Committee of North Hwanghae Province; and other functionaries.

Relay Groups Convey Loyalty to Kim Chong-il

SK1401043592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 14 (KCNA)—Relay groups to convey letters of loyalty to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il started in different parts of the country.

On the occasion of the 50th birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, people in different parts of the country held mass meetings, adopted letters of loyalty to him and sent the relay groups carrying the letters to Pyongyang.

The groups consist of heroes of the republic, labour heroes, labour innovators, model scientists, men of culture and art, sportsmen, armymen, public security men and school youth and children.

The relay groups of various provinces, Korean People's Army, Korean People's Security Forces and school youth and children which left the Mt. Paektu secret camp, Hoeryong, Height 1211 and other places are now running toward Pyongyang.

The relay groups which left 21 places will arrive in Pyongyang through all the counties and cities.

Buddhist Masses Pray for National Reunification

SK1301105792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0956 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—Buddhist masses to pray for national reunification and celebrate the day of Buddha's attainment of great wisdom were held at temples throughout the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Sunday.

Present at the Yonghwa Temple in Pyongyang were monks of the temples, clergymen of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Korean Buddhists Federation [KBF] and its Pyongyang Municipal and Moran District Committees and Buddhists in the city.

Venerable Hwang Pyong-tae, vice-chairman of the C.C., KBF, gave a preach [as received] which was followed by speeches of monks and Buddhists.

They said this is a significant year in which the whole nation should turn out to open a decisive phase for peace and reunification of the country.

The policy of national reunification put forward by the great President Kim Il-song in his New Year address is a patriotic and realistic proposal most correctly reflecting the desire and will of the whole nation for an independent and peaceful reunification and it fully accords with Buddha's behest on the light of Buddhism calling for building a Buddhist elysium by making devoted efforts with dharma as the light, they said.

Noting that peace is an important idea of Buddhism and source of happiness, they stressed that to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula is the most pressing task to be fulfilled primarily by the North and the South.

They demanded that the South Korean authorities immediately take steps for disarmament in the spirit of the agreement so that nonaggression may be guaranteed substantially and make every possible effort to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

All the fellow Buddhists in the North, South and overseas, they noted, should resolutely turn out in the nationwide struggle to carry the North-South agreement into effect and achieve peace and reunification of the country in close unity based on ardent patriotism and the spirit of national independence, irrespective of order and sector, thus making this significant year a year of opening a decisive phase for reunification in the '90s.

Venerable Kim Chong-kuk, head priest of the Yonghwa Temple, prayed for national reunification.

Daily Discusses 'Spirit of National Independence'

SK1101103192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 11 Jan 92

["Spirit of National Independence Is Ideological Basis of Great National Unity"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—What is important in achieving great national unity for promoting the historical cause of national reunification is to win a unity in the spirit of national independence, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Every member of the Korean nation must put the nation's common interests above all and must subordinate everything to these interests; they must unite in the spirit of patriotism and national independence, irrespective of differences of ideology, political view and religious beliefs."

The article says:

The spirit of national independence is a basis of great national unity because it is an independent ideology fully reflecting the common demand and interests of the nation.

Great national unity is possible when all the people who love the nation and want to see an independent development of the nation are united with each other on the basis of the common idea, irrespective of the differences of ideology, idea, system and religious beliefs.

The spirit of national independence is a definite guarantee for achieving great national unity in conformity with the unanimous desire of the nation and an ideological basis for rallying the whole nation closely as independent internal forces.

The idea that reflects the common demand and interests of the nation is precisely the spirit of national independence.

From the days when he started on the road of revolution the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has definitely guaranteed the prosperity and independent development of the nation by achieving national unity on the principle of putting the common demand and interests of our nation above all and subordinating everything to them.

Only the unity of the nation around the leader makes it possible to thoroughly materialize the national idea.

The ideological basis which makes it possible to rally the whole nation behind the leader is the spirit of national independence. The keypoint of this spirit is the revolutionary idea of the leader which reflects the independent demand and interests of the popular masses. Therefore, only when the whole nation is awakened and rallied organizationally in the spirit of national independence, the revolutionary idea of the leader, can it be united closely behind the leader and be independent internal forces capable of shaping its own destiny independently and creatively.

Ours is a nation proud of holding the great leader in high esteem as the sun of the nation and lodestar of reunification.

Our people have become convinced through their daily experience that only when they are united closely on the basis of the chuche idea which fully meets the fundamental demands and interests of the country and the nation, can they achieve the unity of the nation on the highest level.

It is possible only on the basis of the spirit of national independence to rally the compatriots of all walks of life in the North, South and overseas under the banner of great national unity. This has been clearly proved by the history and the reality.

Light Industrial Plants Overfulfill Daily Quotas

SK1101151292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1458 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—Light industrial establishments throughout the country are now effecting a great upswing in production to fulfil the tasks set forth by the great Leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

The Sinuiju Textile Mill has overfulfilled its daily quotas entering this year.

The dyers of the general dyeing shop and spinners of the general chemical fibre shop of the Pyongyang textile combine carried out the assignments to the first shifts of this year at 105.2 percent by operating the machines in full capacity.

The Hyesan Footwear Factory which went beyond the plan by far last year carried out its assignments at 130 percent in the first-day work of the year.

Innovations were also reported from local industrial factories in Unpa County including the plastic daily necessaries factory, the textile mill, the foodstuff factory and the garment factory, the Sariwon Textile Mill and the Kaesong Aeguk Garment Factory.

Daily Encourages Upsurge in Coal Production

SK1301063992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 11 Jan 92

[NODONG SINMUN 11 January editorial: "Let Us Bring Forth a Production Upsurge in the Coal Industrial Sector"]

[Text] This year we have a task to bring forth production upsurge in all sectors of the people's economy so as to strengthen the country's economic might and more satisfactorily solve the problem of food, clothing, and shelter of the people in conformity with the demands of socialism. To carry out this honorable task, a production upsurge should come in the coal industry sector in the first place.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in his New Year's address, has taught: In the coal industry sector, the coal mines should normalize production at a high level and drastically increase coal production by developing more new coal mines.

Increasing coal production is one of the most important and urgent tasks for the socialist construction this year. Coal is like food for industry. We should have coal, which is the fuel and raw material of industry, to produce electricity, operate plants, and normalize production at a high level in all sectors of the people's economy. For this reason, our party has designated the coal industry as the industry of prime importance in the people's economy, always making major efforts for it.

This year is a very significant year in the history of our country. To significantly greet the festive holidays in April and February, our people are waging a devoted struggle. This struggle can only bring forth more brilliant fruition when a production upsurge is effected in the coal industry sector. In particular, since it is winter now, the demand for coal is higher everywhere. As the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il noted, increasing coal production today is the lifeline to rapidly develop the overall economy of the country. The functionaries and working people of the coal industry sector should be deeply aware of the importance of their task for the battle this year and socialist construction and make redoubled efforts. To do so, the functionaries and working people of this sector should wage a resolute struggle with a firm resolve to carry out the coal production target set by the party.

The coal production target that should be achieved daily in the coal industry sector is the demand of the party and an attainable struggle target. We have learned from experience that this target can be well achieved if the functionaries and working people of the coal industry sector are determined and work hard. The production task assigned to each coal mine, pit, company, and platoon of the coal industry sector is to carry out the coal production target set by the party. All the producers of coal should carry out the daily target without fail to thoroughly demonstrate their loyalty to the party and the revolution.

Our party's trust and expectations toward the working class of the coal industry sector is very great. The party members and working people of the coal industry sector should have high pride and self-respect in living and working happily enjoying the great party's leadership and benevolence in the most superior socialist system and wage a struggle to increase coal production with redoubled revolutionary efforts.

In the course of attaining the coal production target, there can be problems and difficulties. However, such conditions should never be problems for the party's revolutionary fighters. It is the true struggle ethos and work-style of the revolutionary fighters to turn adversity to their advantage through their own efforts and carry out the task entrusted to them by the party by any means. All coal producers should exert the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle upholding the party's call and carry out the task entrusted to them, overcoming for themselves the difficulties they encounter.

The revolutionary ethos of fulfilling the coal production target assigned to their units should be exerted more highly by the guiding functionaries. It is the guiding functionaries who directly organize and direct coal production. All the functionaries of the coal industry sector should highly exert the resolute struggle ethos of unconditionally fulfilling the production task assigned to them by mobilizing all the reserves and potentialities for themselves from the position befitting a master of taking responsibility for their unit's production to the end.

Thoroughly implementing the party's policy demand is an important condition to effect an upsurge in coal production. Our party has elucidated all the policy demands in developing the coal industry in conformity with the reality of our country and normalizing coal production at a high level. The coal industry sector should thoroughly implement all the party policy demands without neglecting any of them.

Placing the major emphasis on tunneling and stripping is a principle of the mining industry and it is a consistent demand of our party. The party organizations and functionaries of the coal industry sector should make major efforts for tunneling and stripping and increase their efficiency as demanded by the party, no matter how busy they are with the ongoing production, and normalize coal production at a high level, with enough reserve coal mining sites available. At the same time, they should make major efforts to modernize the basic pits, make them permanent, to replace the mining and conveying facilities with large, modern, and high speed ones, and to realize the general mechanization of the pit work.

Today, our party demands that new coal mines be developed in greater numbers in conformity with the continuously increasing demand for coal. The coal industry sector and other relevant sectors should actively conduct the struggle to develop more new coal mines in districts with good prospects to drastically increase coal production.

The reserve for increasing coal production lies in organizational work. The functionaries of the coal industry sector should be well versed in the specific situation of their units, organize production in a mobilized manner in conformity with the present situation, and set up measures in advance in anticipation of what is coming in the future. They should also provide the miners with conditions that will enable them to work to the best of their ability by providing them with enough tools.

A new upsurge in coal production is unthinkable apart from the good supply work for it. The party demands that the economic organizational work be carried out on the principle of giving priority to the work of assisting coal mines. All the functionaries of all sectors and units should be precisely aware that carrying out the supply work for coal mines ensures the normalization of production in their units and abide by the principle of giving facilities and materials to coal mines first and then giving them to other sectors.

In particular, the functionaries of the relevant committee and ministries of the State Administration Council should pay keen attention to the supply work for coal mines. Coal mines are in greater need of the materials for reinforcing, tunneling, and blasting. The forestry, chemical, other relevant sectors should produce more materials for bracing, tunneling, and blasting and send them to coal mines in a timely manner.

We should kindle fire in the hearts of the coal miners to bring forth an upturn in coal production. The party organizations at various levels of the coal industry sector should carry out the political work and the work with coal miners so that they may do their utmost to be loyal and dutiful men to the party and the leader and make devoted redoubled efforts to increase coal production. In particular, the party organizations and functionaries should go deep among the coal miners and actively stir them up, explaining to them with vivid examples what the party's intent is and how great the party's trust in and expectations of them are.

At the party's call, many functionaries in the capital city and provincial areas are going to the pit galleries to solve problems and to incite the coal miners to innovations and exploits. The party organizations and functionaries should more actively conduct political propaganda and economic agitation with the coal miners and lead them at their front, so that they can effect a decisive upturn in coal production in this significant year.

Housing Construction Starts for Miners' Families

SK1301102492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1002 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—Housing construction for 10,000 coal miners' families started in South Pyongan Province of Korea last year and houses for 6,300 families of them were completed. The state has directed big efforts to this work, defining it as a main factor of increased coal output to improve the housing condition of the miners.

As a result, one-storied or multi-storied houses for 1,000 families were built each in Sunchon, Kaechon and Tokchon Districts, for 1,500 families in Pukchang District and for 800 families in Anju District where large coal fields are situated. And houses for hundreds of families each were built in different coal mining districts including the Yongdae coal mine. Moving to new houses has begun.

The province produces by itself all materials and equipment needed for construction with solid bases of building-materials including cement, roofing tiles and bricks. It is pushing on work to complete houses for 4,000 families now under construction within the first quarter of the year under a scrupulous plan.

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 14 Jan

SK1401044992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0421 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 14 (KCNA)—Papers here today frontpage a photo-accompanied report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received Rev. Kwon Ho-kyong, director of the National Council of Christian Churches of South Korea, and his companion.

Seen in NODONG SINMUN is a message Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent to Blaise Compaore, president and head of state of Burkina Faso, in reply to his message of greetings to him upon the adoption of important decisions and the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army at the 19th plenary meeting of the 6th WPK Central Committee.

The daily carries messages of greetings to President Kim Il-song from Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, and Rashed Khan Menon, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh, on the occasion of the new year and reports that the New Year address of President Kim Il-song was reported in various countries.

Given in the press are accounts of mass meetings held in cities and counties to thoroughly carry out the tasks set forth by president Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

Relay groups for conveying letters of loyalty to Comrade Kim Chong-il left different places of the country, according to papers.

Foreign media reported about the election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, says NODONG SINMUN.

The paper says that Comrade Kim Chong-il has led officials to successfully carry out their revolutionary tasks with a concrete methodology and superb tactics.

Appearing in the daily is a message of greetings to the C.C. [Central Committee], Workers' Party of Korea from Rolf Hagel, chairman of the Labour Party-Communists of Sweden, on the occasion of the new year.

An article of the daily calls upon the officials and party members to loyally uphold the party's cause with achievements in their work.

Achievements in different sectors of the national economy are edited in the press.

NODONG SINMUN informs the reading public that the society of Koreans in Japan for peaceful reunification issued a statement regarding the decision of the United States and the South Korean authorities to discontinue the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises for this year. It conveys public tones describing this decision as a victory of the line of peace of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government. And an article of the paper calls for putting a period to the "Team Spirit" for good and all. [sentence as received]

It is reported in the press that Kaiho, the organ of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, denounced the United States for intensifying provocations against the DPRK over the nuclear problem.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with an article explaining that it is most important to take substantial steps to ensure peace on the Korean peninsula since an agreement on nonaggression has been reached between the North and the South of Korea.

The South Korean authorities demanded a prison term for the father of Kang Kyong-tae, a student who was killed by South Korean police on the scene of a demonstration, reports the press.

Appearing in papers are foreign public voices on the advantages of the Korean socialist system and a report that a resolution on Korea was adopted at the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

NODONG SINMUN reports that a Chinese paper carried an article about the situation on the Korean peninsula, 10 million volumes of the new edition of Mao Zedong's works were disseminated in China last year and about 700,000 people visited the Zhou Enlai Memorial Hall in Tianjin.

The international news columns of papers include reports that spies were sentenced to death in Cuba, the Angolan president called for national harmony, the Zimbabwean president in his New Year address outlined the question of agricultural development for this year, and the World Federation of Trade Unions called for solidarity with Cuba.

NODONG SINMUN introduces Laos, Iran, India and Bangladesh which are striving to build a prosperous new Asia.

In an article entitled "Token of Ignorance of the Law Governing the Development of History" the daily ridicules the imperialist argument about the "end of socialism."

South Korea

Bush Leaves 'Valuable Lesson' After Asia Visit

SK1401011992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Jan 92 p 8

["News in Review" column by deputy economics editor Pak Chang-sok: "'Salesman' Bush's Asian Trip Valuable Lesson for ROK Leaders"]

[Text] Last week was actually for salesman Bush's roadshow through Asian Dragons. U.S. President George Bush has left much for Koreans to think about. Bush's Asian swing was surely different from the overseas trips of other American presidents in purpose and intensity.

Accompanied by a troop of powerful businessmen, Bush travelled a 26,000-mile uphill trip to an untold tight schedule for more jobs and more exports from his country's major trading partners, Korea, Japan, Australia and Singapore. No doubt, Bush's trip was largely aimed at providing a tonic for a faltering economy and helping a reelection bid in November through economic revitalization.

Bush's trip has left many lessons the Korean leaders should not pass over lightly. One thing to be taken note of is that trade issues are emerging as the top-priority national concern in the United States, which still remains the strongest military and economic power. After the collapse of the former Soviet Union and its satellite countries, ideology has taken a back seat and the economic war has been taking its place. All countries over the world brace for the restructuring of the economic order, typified by the creation of regional economic blocs and the global free trade under way within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which has rapidly progressed particularly since the Gulf war.

How about Korea? Now, everybody is raving furiously to do politics this year with a plethora of election in store. Economic technocrats are leaving office to run for National Assemble seats. The political parties are inciting Cabinet members to do politics. In the teeth of the sagging economy, even businessmen are turning to politics. Business tycoon Chong Chu-yong, owner of Korea's largest conglomerate Hyundai Group, has already founded a political party. Hyundai Motor, a major affiliate of Chong's group and also the largest automaker, has had car exports suspended due to chronic labor-management conflicts. About 1,500 automotive parts-makers associated with Hyundai Motor are on the point of going under. Nonetheless, Chong still says nothing about this, only spitting out political remarks.

Thousands of millions of dollars will probably be needed to operate the new party and help finance candidates running for the National Assemblymen. The use of such a huge amount of money as political funds is not understandable to the people in view of the fact that most manufacturing businesses including Hyundai affiliates have been suffering serious fund shortages amid growing bank credit control.

Another lesson being taken from the latest Bush trip is that the president rolled up his sleeves himself to solve the bread-and-butter issues for his countrymen and muddled through the bitters of a hard journey. During his brief two-day visit to Seoul, Bush, besides talks with the Korean officials, squeezed in meetings with Korean businessmen over breakfast and luncheon to urge the wider market opening. Bush's tight schedules continued in Japan, the main target of his Asian trip, where he finally slumped over to the floor at a state dinner with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The frightening scene of the 67-year-old president collapsing to the floor has stunned people within and without his country. The U.S. media, raising doubts over the qualifications of Bush's reelection bid in view of his health, rapped that the trip had fallen short of its goal to solve a wide range of afflictions, from joblessness and indebtedness to the death of industries unable to compete. The results cannot be satisfactory to all at all times. Bush did his best working himself to the near collapse of his life.

Practical behavior, not words, is in order for the Korean helmsman as well. President No Tae-u said in a New Year press conference that top priority would be given to revitalizing the national economy, emphasizing price stability and improvement of the current account balance. Similar remarks have been heard often from the Cabinet ministers. But, their vows have not fared well. No declared his willingness to devote himself to economic revival, leaving politics in the hands of politicians. As words, it looked good. The problem lies in how to translate his utterances into action.

Tripartite Project With U.S., PRC Considered

SK1301114692 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 9 Jan 92 p 7

[Text] During U.S. President Bush's visit to the ROK, the ROK and the United States agreed to actively carry out the "ROK-U.S.-China tripartite cooperation project" in a bid to jointly advance into Chinese markets.

On 8 January, a relevant official at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry revealed that "during President Bush's recent visit to the ROK, the U.S. side showed a great interest in the plan to jointly advance into China with the ROK, and this issue was discussed in depth."

With the conclusion of the ROK-China trade treaty, the atmosphere has matured to enable the ROK to expand its Chinese markets and China has begun to implement the Eighth Five-Year Plan in 1991 and is actively inducing foreign investments. As a result, the U.S. side expressed the strong hope for joint investment in China together with the ROK.

Relevant officials observe that although the United States made large-scale direct investments in Chinese markets in the past, its investments ended up failing in most cases.

Such failures resulted from poor business management methods by the United States, although its technology in ultramodern industry is superior.

During President Bush's visit, the U.S. side requested that the ROK actively study the method of joint investment in Chinese markets, which are expected to require enormous investments with the implementation of the

Eighth Five-Year Plan, in the form of combining U.S. high technology and the ROK's Oriental business management technique.

It was also learned that the United States promised to strengthen its support for improving ROK-China relations, including early establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

A relevant official in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that "our government is affirmatively reviewing the cooperation project among the three nations proposed by the United States. He added that the government is drawing up concrete plans concerning the method of joint investments according to each business category.

South, North Exchange Nuclear-Free Declarations

SK1401090092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0839 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea exchanged copies Tuesday of a nuclear-free declaration, each signed by one prime minister.

South Korean Vice National Unification Minister Yim Tong-won and North Korean [Ambassador-At-Large] Choe U-chin exchanged the documents at the truce village of Panmunjom.

They will re-exchange the documents next Tuesday, after each prime minister adds his signature to that of his counterpart on the other side, and the declaration will take effect at the sixth prime ministers' talks, which open Feb. 19 in Pyongyang, South Korean officials said.

The six-point declaration stipulates that a joint nuclear control committee be formed within a month of its taking effect, but YONHAP has learned that both sides have agreed in principle to inaugurate the committee at the moment it takes effect.

Daewoo Group Gets 'Green Light' To Visit North

SK1401094992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0909 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—Chairman Kim U-chung and eight other executive officials of the Daewoo Business Group on Tuesday obtained the green light from the government for their planned visit to North Korea.

Kim and his party will visit Pyongyang from Wednesday through Jan. 31 to discuss inter-Korean cooperation in textile and other light industries.

They were officially invited by Vice Premier and concurrently Foreign Trade Minister Kim Tal-hyon.

South To Invite North to Pacific Economic Talks

SK1401061392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—The Korea Committee of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) is to invite North Korea to the 26th PBEC General Assembly in Seoul May 22-27, 1993.

The committee met at the Federation of Korean Industries Building Tuesday and decided to invite Pyongyang to attend the meeting through the International Secretariat of PBEC.

South Korea aims to draw out inter-Korean economic cooperation in a natural manner using multilateral consultative methods at next year's meeting, a Council source said.

PBEC is an economic cooperative body composed of 14 member countries in the Pacific Basin, and a few non-member nations such as Russia and China are expected at the Seoul meeting.

The organizing committee for the Seoul meeting comprises 30 businessmen and is headed by Cho Yang-rae, chairman of the Hyosung Group.

NUB Approves Inter-Korean Aviation Cooperation

SK1401094392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—The National Unification Board approved Monday an application by Korean Air (KAL) to contact North Koreans to initiate aviation negotiations with North Korean Civil Aviation Co., officials of the Transportation Ministry and KAL said Tuesday.

In its application, the South Korean flag carrier sought government approval for its chairman Cho Chung-hun, President Cho Chung-kun and 23 other officials to contact North Korean authorities through telex, telephone or other communication links.

Once contact is established, the airline officials said, KAL plans to arrange working-level meetings either in Moscow or Beijing with North Korean civil aviation officials in March or April to discuss their plans for cooperation.

If the negotiations are successfully concluded, the officials said KAL not only plans to launch a regular service between Seoul and Pyongyang but also cut flight hours of its current services to Europe via Moscow by flying over North Korea.

Travels by officials between South and North Korea by car and train via the truce village of Panmunjom could be replaced by planes which could take less than one hour between any cities in the South and the North, the officials added.

ROK, DPRK Companies Complete Barter Exchange

SK1401114592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1135 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—Some 20,000 tons of North Korean anthracite arrived at Inchon Port Tuesday under a direct barter deal between South Korea's Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. and North Korea's Yongnam Chemical Co.

The initial shipment was made in return for Lucky-Goldstar's delivery to Nampo on Jan. 4 of 2,100 color television receivers and 200 tons of polyethylene film.

Under a barter deal concluded in November, the South Korean General Trading Company is to send 5,000 units of color television receivers, 5,000 tons of sugar and 700 tons of polyethylene film worth 4 million U.S. dollars altogether.

Yongnam, in return, is to ship 100,000 tons of anthracite to the South.

A freighter registered in St. Vincent was used for transporting the goods between the two sides, a National Unification Board official said.

* 'Two Faces' of North Revealed in Oct 1991 Talks

922C0050A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 30 Oct 91 p 8

[Unattributed article: "'Two Faces' Again Revealed at Fourth Prime Ministerial Meeting"]

[Text] At the fourth North-South high-level talks held in Pyongyang 22-25 October, North Korea demonstrated an apparent willingness to work together for an improvement in North-South relations, reaching agreement on the adoption of a single agreement and the makeup of its contents. But it has now been laid bare the fact that the North is still not abandoning its existing strategy toward the South and is continuing its attempts to abuse the dialogue behind our backs.

On 25 October the North Korean side celebrated the success of the conference, and Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and Premier Yon Hyong-muk were pledging to make the fifth prime ministerial meeting a success. Before the warmth of the farewell handshake (at the Paekhwawon Guest House) had even cooled, however, the North Korean side completely broke an earlier agreement that they would not arrange for family reunions for members of the delegation: they put relatives of one of the members of our delegation on the Pyongyang-Kaesong train on which Prime Minister Chong was riding and arranged a secret meeting.

Without the knowledge of the South Korean delegation, the North Korean side secretly put on the train Kim Kyong-uk (63) and Kim Sang-uk (60), the uncles of a certain reporter named Kim of the K newspaper, who originally hailed from Togwon, South Hamgyong Province. Then, in great secrecy the North Koreans had them meet at about 1030 in one of the compartments of the train.

This of course was revealed when reporter Kim informed the South Korean reporters immediately after the meeting, but the North Korean liaison officer, Choe Pong-chun, tried to deceive the South Korean side and feigned ignorance, saying that "no such thing ever happened."

Reporter Kim said that upon meeting his two uncles, he talked about the health of his own father and his uncles for about five minutes, then left.

Belatedly learning of this, our reporters ran to liaison officer Choe and asked him to arrange another meeting so they could take pictures. However, the North Korean not only had moved Kim's uncles to another compartment of the train, but also denied the very fact that a meeting had taken place and vented his frustration on our reporters, who just wanted to cover the story, and responded rudely to them.

Choe, appearing very flustered, said in an agitated voice that "Prime Minister Chong Won-sik himself has about 85 relatives living in the North" and "maybe the reporter met a distant relative here by coincidence, but we didn't place any relatives of a South Korean reporter on the train."

Only Excuses to Open Requests

In response to this, our reporters said that they had heard this directly from reporter Kim and again strongly demanded that we meet the two people he said he met. But Choe, still flustered, stubbornly continued to deny everything. He looked like he could hardly wait until the train got to Kaesong Station so he could escape this predicament.

Choe even went so far as to angrily say to one of the South Korean reporters who was pressing him to set up another meeting between the relatives, "You're not a reporter, get out of here." Under the heavy barrage of demands, one of Choe's associates led him by the hand and had him sit down, using placating gestures, and moved around in utter confusion and displayed a cold sweat. Normally he acted like a reporter, but it was clear he was a member of the North Korean intelligence service.

In the face of our reporters' noisy demands, Choe stuck to his guns for 20-30 minutes, then gradually changed his tone to one of pleading. He even appealed, "We've had success in this round of the talks and even set a date for the Panmunjom contacts to precede the fifth round of talks, so since no relatives were riding on the train, for the future of the talks, please understand the situation."

In particular, he said, "Whether the talks succeed or fail is up to you reporters." He asked that because an agreement had been made between North and South not to arrange family reunions. If the fact of the meeting were made public, it would have a bad effect on the talks. He asked for our understanding and said, "Even if he met his relatives, that was a coincidence," which was tantamount to admitting that a family reunion had in fact taken place.

What strained logic! Arranging for someone to meet his relatives, then saying it was a coincidence. In the tightly controlled North Korean society, how could a South Korean reporter's family members by coincidence get on a train reserved only for the South Korean delegation attending the high-level talks and their guides, the relevant North Korean officials!

Reminder of Prime Minister Kang Incident Last Year

At the second North-South high level talks last year, the North brought relatives of three members of the South Korean delegation, including Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, to the Paekhwawon Guest House. Emphasizing a "humanitarian work," they arranged for the reunions and afterwards, despite their promise to keep it confidential, revealed the meeting to the South Korean side through North Korean reporters. Was this not an attempt to damage the reputation of Prime Minister Kang?

Yi Hung-chu, first administrative coordinator in the Prime Minister's office, who went to Pyongyang in Prime Minister Kang's entourage, says, "It's a fact that a treacherous scheme was behind all this and that it was all premeditated." He interprets it as follows: The North Korean side figured that if the South Korean side refused the family reunions, the North Koreans would reveal the fact and try to generate public opinion critical of refusing the reunions. Second, by revealing the reunions after promising to keep them a secret, they were trying to damage Prime Minister Chong's reputation.

He noted particularly that in the interest of reconciliation and cooperation between the North and South, what is important above all is confidence-building between the two sides, but in a situation where they even discard like an old shoe matters that were agreed upon between the two sides, how will confidence-building be possible?

One person concerned says of this violation of solemn promises on two occasions, "It's the really filthy communist attitude of the ends justifying the means." "If they won't even honor the matters agreed on that level, how can we believe that those communists will honor important matters like a nonaggression agreement," he sighed.

From several angles we can see that this behavior of the North Korean side was clearly more than just a plot or operation involving the family reunion for former Prime Minister Kang.

First of all, even though they were already in a difficult spot because of the incident involving former Prime Minister Kang, the fact that they dared to carry out a family reunion with reporter Kim had a dishonest purpose. From the fact that they put two family members on a special train, which is difficult to dismiss as a chance meeting, it is clear that they had intended to get something from the reunion and were certain that the incident would not be revealed.

Second, it is necessary to take note of the fact that the K newspaper where reporter Kim is employed is one that specializes in national defense issues. Fortunately, reporter Kim immediately came and revealed the incident to us. This was extremely fortunate, for if he had covered it up, it is easy to presume that the North Koreans would have exploited this vulnerability and tried to use him as an "agent in place" or an "operative."

Third, and most importantly, the North Korean side, while ostensibly conducting dialogue, has not reined in its strategy of revolutionizing the South.

The North Koreans took the offensive against us, talking to our delegation about things like "assimilation reunification by the South Korean side," as if the South was hatching some kind of plot to absorb them, and this proves that down deep they have by no means changed their old anti-South strategy.

We can easily presume that to escape their recent difficulties they are pursuing a dual-track strategy of peace and war. But we cannot suppress our astonishment that they would target even the news reporters covering the high-level talks and perpetrate this kind of plot in broad daylight, using as the stage the special train on which Prime Minister Chong was riding.

What is most worrisome is how can we carry out agreements in the future and trust and have confidence in those people who have discarded, like a pair of old shoes, matters—even trifling items in a sense—that were agreed upon in the interest of carrying out a smooth meeting between the delegations of the two sides?

Seoul Plans for PRC Commerical Arbitration Pact

SK1401021092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—South Korea, its confidence boosted by a trade accord initialed in mid-December, is ready to conclude a commercial arbitration agreement with China, a government source said Tuesday.

The government was ready for an arbitration pact because it felt that major obstacles had been removed by conclusion of the trade pact, the source said.

The trade agreement, signed on Dec. 31 despite lack of diplomatic relations between Seoul and Beijing, states that both governments should encourage commercial firms engaged in disputes to consult each other and settle the disputes through arbitration.

Yi Sun-u, director-general of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board, will visit Beijing for talks with officials of the China Chamber of International Commerce Jan. 20-22 on signing the arbitration pact, delayed due to lack of a trade pact, he said.

The accord prepared by the Korean side is designed to advise commercial firms of both nations to insert an arbitration article into contracts. If two parties are unable to reach a consensus, arbitration organizations of both nations will mediate.

Seoul Awaits Apology for PRC Fishing Violations

SK1401070892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0649 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—Four Chinese fishermen caught violating the Korean territorial waters over the weekend will be kept in custody until Beijing makes a formal apology and pays their fines, Seoul decided Tuesday.

Their violation of the territorial waters was "outright enchroachment on Korea's sovereignty," said a statement issued after vice ministers met to discuss the problem.

Regulations were drafted in the meeting giving the maritime police responsibility for handling all vessels violating Korea's territorial waters and making it the navy's task to catch boats poaching inside the marine resources protection line.

Sim Tae-pyong, administrative coordination chief at the prime minister's office, presided and participants included the home, foreign, defense and justice vice ministers, the fisheries administrator and the maritime police administrator.

Under the territorial waters law, an alien skipper entering Korean waters can be jailed for up to five years or fined up to 20 million won (26,300 U.S. dollars). The vessel, catch and equipment can be confiscated.

The Cheju maritime police took into custody Monday [13 January] four skippers of Chinese trawlers on charges of violating the territorial limit.

Korean Industrial Complex in PRC Planned

SK1401094592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0845 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—The Trade and Industry Ministry will build a 23.3 billion-won (30.7 million-U.S.-dollar) industrial complex in Tianjin, China, by June 1993 and sell space to 150 Korean enterprises and Korean-Chinese joint ventures.

The complex, work on which begins in July, will cost 6.9 billion won for construction of roads and key facilities and 900 million won for maintenance, the ministry said. The government paid 14.4 billion won for a 50-year lease on the land.

Occupants will be textile, sewing, electric, electronics, prefabricated metals, oil-processing and chemical factories, according to the ministry. Applications have arrived from 260 firms, but only 120 to 150 are eligible for space in the complex.

The sales price of 72,000 won per pyong (3.3 square meters) is about 20 percent the price at an industrial complex in Asan, South Chungchong Province.

Trade Ministry Examines Trade With Japan

Export Decline Termed 'Alarming'

SK1101020992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0135 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—South Korea which had been the second largest exporter to Japan after the United States until 1989 was pushed back to fifth place by China, Indonesia and Australia.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry said Saturday the trend is especially alarming since China's share of Japanese markets is increasing rapidly while South Korea's share is being eroded fast by competing countries like Taiwan, Malaysia and Thailand.

The growth rate of Korea's exports to Japan last year was 7.2 percent as of Sept. 31, compared with 15 percent for Taiwan, 23 percent for China, 25 percent for Malaysia and 27 percent for Thailand, the ministry said.

China's share of Japanese market in 1991 was 5.8 percent, up 0.7 percent from 5.1 percent in 1990, compared with Korea's share of 5.1 percent in 1991, up only 0.1 percent from 5 percent in 1990. Japanese market shares of Taiwan, Malaysia and Thailand last year were respectively 4 percent, up 0.4 percent from 1990, 2.8 percent, up 0.5 percent from 1990, and 2.1 percent, up 0.3 percent from 1990.

The growth rate of South Korea's exports to Japan which registered 52.6 percent in 1987 progressively dropped to 12.5 percent in 1989, 10 percent in 1989 and 9.9 percent in 1990 due mainly to competitive weakness in prices, the ministry said.

Government Eager To Cut Deficit

SK1201012092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Jan 92 p 8

[Text] The government is eager to cut the trade deficit with Japan from $8.8 billion last year to $6 billion in 1996.

This is a core part of the second comprehensive program on reduction of the trade deficit with Japan drawn up at a session of economic ministers yesterday.

Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu, Trade-Industry Minister Han Pong-su, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and Kim Chong-in, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, attended the meeting.

The program has been drawn up in time for the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to Seoul Jan. 16-18 for summit talks with President No Tae-u.

In a New Year's press conference Thursday, No expressed his will to rectify the bilateral trade imbalance now in disfavor of Korea during the talks with Miyazawa.

The Economic Planning Board [EPB] said the trade deficit with Japan accounted for about 92 percent of the nation's total trade shortfall last year.

The top trade policymakers decided the government's position that the two neighboring countries can hardly maintain friendly relations in the absence of an improvement in the trade imbalance.

In this connection, Seoul is determined to call on Tokyo to increase imports from Korea and to transfer advanced technology to Korea during the summit talks, an EPB official said.

President George Bush's Asian trip, which ended Friday, also was mainly aimed at putting pressure on Japan to open its markets, in particular for automobiles, to trim the bulging trade deficit with Japan.

The EPB official said the government will continue to push ahead with the policy of diversifying import sources away from Japan and strengthening support for localization of machinery and parts mainly imported from Japan as a way to reduce imports.

The government will also extend the period for preferential financing for traders exporting goods to Japan and promote bilateral technological cooperation.

Large scale exhibitions will be arranged in Japan this year to promote sales of Korean products in the neighboring country.

Due to structural problems in manufacturing, imports from Japan have rapidly been increasing, while Korean products have been driven out of the country gradually by rival exporter nations.

As of the end of September last year, Korea registered a slower 7.2 percent growth in exports to Japan, while Taiwan saw 15 percent, China 23 percent, Malaysia 25 percent and Thailand 27 percent, according to statistics available at the Trade-Industry Ministry.

As a result, the Chinese share in the Japanese market grew from 5.1 percent in 1990 to 5.8 percent, the Taiwanese share jumped from 3.6 percent to 4 percent, Malaysia saw 0.5 percent growth to 2.8 percent and Thailand went from 1.8 percent to 2.1 percent.

But Korea's market share in Japan only recorded a slight 0.1 percent gain to 5 percent last year.

Thus, Korea was expelled to fifth position in the Japanese market behind China, Australia and Indonesia last year from second position following the United States in 1990.

In the near future, Korea will be trailed by Taiwan, Malaysia and Thailand if the current trend continues, the EPB official said.

Investment, Visa Agreement Signed With Uruguay

SK1301075892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0724 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Uruguay signed a memorandum of understanding on Monday on investment protection and avoidance of double taxation, the Foreign Ministry said.

The memorandum, which also calls for an early accord on visa exemption for government officials and diplomats, was signed by Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and his Uruguayan counterpart, Hector Gros Espiell.

Espiell, who is also chairman of the Uruguay Round trade negotiations committee ministerial conference, arrived Sunday.

Yi and Espiell discussed prospects for the Uruguay Round.

Yi said there were problems with the proposed opening of the agriculture market.

Espiell said he did not favor rejecting the proposal of GATT Director-General Arthur Dunkel in its entirety and expected him to offer a more progressive proposal on agricultural trade.

The foreign ministers also discussed increasing purchases of Uruguayan products by Korea and Uruguayan participation in the Taejon Expo next year.

Espiell was decorated with the order of diplomatic service merit, Kwanghwa Medal, during his courtesy call on President No Tae-u earlier that day.

Multinational Tumen River Talks Slated for Feb

SK1401013392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Jan 92 p 8

[Text] The first meeting of multinational officials on the development of Tumen River area will be held Feb. 26-March 2 in Seoul, the Economic Planning Board said yesterday.

The multilateral project initiated by the United Nations Development Program [UNDP] will be participated in by six countries—South and North Korea, China, Japan, the Russian Federation and Mongolia.

Some 40 persons are scheduled to take part in the meeting of the group dubbed the program management committee—three formal representatives from each state, their entourages, experts from the UNDP and other international organizations including the Asian Development Bank, a spokesman said.

The committee members will discuss the general direction of the project and details of cooperation among the participating nations, the spokesman said.

He said that in particular they will discuss development plans for the area of Sonbong and Najin near the North Korean river bordering China and Russia.

The Tumen River project called for the completion of detailed planning in three stages by June 1993 before a final decision is made by high-ranking government officials of all participating countries, the spokesman said.

In Pyongyang Oct. 15-21 last year, the six nations held a meeting and agreed to form the program management committee which will set up three working-level teams to undertake economical analysis, the analysis of legal, financial and other systems.

Trade Group Delays Plan for Moscow Trade Center

SK1201010492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Jan 92 p 8

[Text] Korea's plan to build a mammoth trade center in Moscow has been thrown into disarray due to the disintegration of the former Soviet Union.

The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA), the state-run foreign trade agency, said it has to reshape its plan to construct the Korea-Soviet Trade Center negotiated with the old central government in Moscow last year.

It said the massive political changes in the now Commonwealth of Independent States dimmed the prospects of the trade center project.

KOTRA had earlier set the ground-breaking for the trade center sometime this year on a 2.5-hectare land site near Red Square to be leased for 49 years.

KOTRA will open discussions about details of the leasing contract and specifics of the building project with officials of the Russian Republic but will remain flexible to accommodate changes in land laws and other red tape there, KOTRA officials indicated.

The organization is also planning to set up a new body to exclusively work on the trade center project soon.

Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. and Daewoo Corp., which are investing in the project, will become partners of the new holding company, according to KOTRA.

Besides the two, seven other private companies are likely to participate in the trade center construction.

KOTRA has a one million dollar government fund for the project.

Small Companies To Use KOTRA Overseas Offices

SK1301025792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0148 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) will allow its 80 overseas offices to be used as branch offices by medium- and small-sized companies, a KOTRA spokesman said Monday.

The cash-strapped firms will be allowed to choose up to three KOTRA offices as a branch office, and each KOTRA office will serve from five to 20 companies, depending on the size of its staff, he said.

KOTRA will gather market information, take part in exhibitions and help with sales negotiations. Each KOTRA office will try to help Korean companies conclude over 1,000 deals, each valued at more than 2,000 U.S. dollars, he said.

Companies qualified to use KOTRA offices as their own branch offices are promising exporters with advanced technology striving to become top-class businesses.

Each company must pay a membership fee of 290,000 won and a 50,000 won registration fee for each office a year, he said.

Seoul, Hanoi To Develop Oil Field in Vietnam

SK1201004892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Jan 92 p 8

[Text] Korea and Vietnam have agreed on the joint development of the "Big Bear" oil field in Vietnam, one of the country's highly prospective offshore oil blocks, the Energy-Resources Ministry said yesterday.

The ministry has so far conducted a feasibility study of the project and came to a conclusion on the joint development of "Big Bear," officials said.

A group of Korean companies including the Korea Petroleum Development Corp. will form a consortium to take part in the oil development project in Vietnam.

The Korean consortium will invite foreign oil companies to make up for their shortage of funds and insufficient technology, the ministry said.

Energy-Resources Minister Chin-nyom is due to visit the communist country from Jan. 17 as part of his efforts to speed up the Korean-Vietnamese joint project.

The Korean consortium allegedly will acquire a 40-percent equity share in the "Big Bear" project and plans to invest about 1.3 billion dollars. Oil production is set to begin next year.

"Big Bear," located off the southern part of Vietnam, is believed to have proven reserves of 1.0 billion barrels and has attracted sharp attention from foreign oil companies for its high economic value.

The former Soviet Union has been in operation in "Big Bear" in a 50-50 joint venture with Vietnam but the development has been inactive.

Foreign Investment Increases in Service Sector

SK1301083492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0817 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—Foreign investment in South Korea showed strongest growth in the service sector last year, when a record 1,395 million U.S. dollars was brought in, up 73.7 percent from 1990, the Finance Ministry said Monday. The number of investments slipped from 296 to 287.

In the service sector, investment amounted to 325 million dollars in 178 projects, up 48.4 percent and 11.9 percent, respectively, according to the ministry.

Manufacturing attracted 109 investments, off 20.4 percent, but the amount rose 83.2 percent to 1.07 billion dollars led by a 470 million-dollar investment by Aramco in a joint venture with Ssangyong. The increase would have been even greater but for a jump in labor costs, an official said.

Excluding Aramco as an anomaly, investment in the sector amounted to 600 million dollars, up 2.7 percent. Investment from Europe showed particular growth, but from the United States and Japan it changed little.

Security Checks at International Airports Lifted

SK1101114392 Seoul YONHAP in English 1107 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—Anti-terror security checks on cars and people entering the nation's three international airports will be lifted as of midnight Sunday [12 Jan], police said Saturday.

Police checks on residence certificates at domestic flight airports will also be abolished at the same time, it was said.

The irksome precautions were introduced at Kimpo, Kimhae and Cheju International Airports in 1986 in the wake of a bomb explosion at the entrance of a terminal building in Kimpo airport.

But the vehicle search will be conducted selectively in case of emergency and on information of impending terrorist attack, the police said.

The police said they would instead get the airline officials to confirm the identities of the passengers when they check in.

"This step was taken in line with the public opinion that security system must be improved in view of the growing number of passengers," a police officer said. He added that security checks in bonded areas of the airports will be strengthened though.

* No Tae-u Seen Jockeying for Post-Presidency

922C0061A HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 17 Nov 91 p 7

[Article by reporter Kwak Pyong-chan: "'Loyalty' Is the Yardstick in the Nomination Strategy of President No and other Democratic Liberal Party leaders, as the Nomination Process Is Aimed at Building a Royal Guard as a Hedge for His Post-Presidential Life"]

[Text] The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] leadership does not hesitate to mention moral standards such as ethical integrity and capability when the question of nomination becomes a subject of discussion.

However, to those who are familiar with the temperament of the government party, these standards sound merely as "rhetoric reserved for public consumption." They are well aware that as in the case with all the past elections, loyalty to the "boss" will be the standard of judgement in nominating candidates for the coming election.

In particular, the 14th general election will have a significant bearing on the power play within the DLP, because this election will be the chief determinant of what kind of safety valve President No will be able to secure for himself after his retirement and how the struggle among the three factions for the next presidential candidacy will end. Given this significance, all agree that loyalty will loom large as never before in the nomination of DLP candidates. This will hold true all the more so particularly in the nomination of candidates running from the Pusan, Kyongnam, Taegu, and Kyongbuk areas as well as from the national constituency, where who gets "nominated and elected on the DLP ticket" is almost predetermined.

In a nutshell, emphasis is bound to be placed on no other purpose than "winning the general election" and forming a loyalist guard for the boss of each faction. For President No, who hopes to use the "DLP assemblymen of the 14th National Assembly" as a safety net after his retirement, it seems a sheer necessity for the DLP to nominate its candidates absolutely on the basis of loyalty.

In this connection, President No's close aides are said to have intensively studied the personnel management style of his predecessor, Chon Tu-hwan, including his method of nomination, before working out measures in preparation for President No's post-presidential life. In this study, the aides reportedly found some serious flaws in Chon Tu-hwan's personnel management style and hurriedly worked out complementary measures. In their view, one of the flaws was that ex-President Chon trusted the loyalty of his heir-apparent, the then DJP assemblymen, and the chiefs of various power organs to the extent that he did not exercise his power of appointment in such as a way as to favor people to whom favor was due, thereby failing to secure a strong loyalist "guard" that could insure a secure life for him after retirement. As a result, he ended up in virtual "confinement." This analysis leads to the logical conclusion that "safety in retirement can be insured only by building a wall with the loyalists."

For this reason, the current rumor in the Taegu-Kyongbuk area that 40 to 50 percent of the incumbent DLP assemblymen there may be replaced, or the rumor that many of the Chongwadae officials and ministers and vice ministers of the government will enter the political arena en masse, both seem to have something to do with President No's strategy for building a loyalist guard. Needless to say, a considerable number of them may be competing for a seat in the 14th National Assembly out of their personal ambition. Yet there is the possibility that the leadership center of the government party is actively backing them, using their loyalty as a pawn.

The report that incumbent Chongwadae secretaries will run from the National Constituency en masse is a case in point. At one time the Chongwade secretaries became a target of criticism because too many of them were more concerned about "running for election" than about counselling the president. In the sense that "president's men" more loyal than these secretaries can hardly be found even within the government party itself, formation of a royal guard with them at the center seems inevitable.

The Chongwade secretaries whose names are mentioned as likely nominees include: at the senior level, Choe Yong-chil, special assistant for political affairs; Kim Hak-chun, assistant for policy research; Son Chu-hwan, senior secretary for political affairs; Im Chae-kil, senior secretary for general affairs; Kim Chong-in, senior secretary for economic affairs; and Yi Pyong-ki, senior secretary for protocol affairs. In addition, Yi Yang-hui and Yom Hong-chol, secretaries for political affairs; Kwak Sun-chol, secretary for civil affairs; and Kim Hyon-dong, secretary for international security, are also mentioned. Some of them are "self-motivated," but people like Senior Secretary for Political Affairs Son, Senior Secretary for Economic Affairs Kim, Senior Secretary for Protocol Affairs Yi, and Secretary for Civil Affairs Kwak are said most likely to have run for the National Constituency without regard to their own desire because they are president's men and have to form a post-presidency loyalist guard. Senior Secretary Son has been almost "murderously" overworking the members of his office of the secretary for political affairs until 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning each day since he moved to Seoul to join Chongwadae after suspending his regional activities in Masan; Senior Secretary Kim was one of the "king makers" for President No during the last presidential election and since then has been assisting the president; and Senior Secretary Yi has always accompanied President No like a shadow ever since the president began his civilian life following his transfer from active service to the reserve list. This trio is invariably recognized as the most trusted of the president's men. Secretary Kwak has closely assisted President No ever since he began to work as assistant for parliamentary affairs to No Tae-u when the latter was Democratic Justice Party chairman.

The cases of Special Assistant Choe Yong-chol and Presidential Assistant Kim Hak-chun are somewhat different from these people, although they are equally loyal, in that they expressed their desire to run for the election on their own and have been actively pursuing this goal. Choe is the current chairman of the Mokpo District DLP chapter, and Assistant Kim has been preparing to run from Inchon North or Southeast District. However, in case it becomes difficult for him to run from either of these two districts because of the regional peculiarities of the Honam area or because of a rift among the ruling party candidates, he will most likely run from the National Constituency. Senior Secretary Yim Chae-kil (Taedok-Yongi, South Chungchong Province) and Secretaries Yom Hong-chol (Nonsan, South Chungchong Province), Yi Yang-hui (Taejon), Kim Hyon-tong (Chongsong-Yongdok, North Kyongsang Province) all hope for nominations to run from their local districts. But if things go amiss, it is possible that one or two of them will be nominated to run from the National Constituency.

Another core in the formation of a royal guard is the president's relatives on the distaff and spindle sides and members of the Wolgyesuhoe. Kim Pok-tong, director of the Institute for International Cultural Studies, and Kim Chin-ho, former minister of trade and industry—these two were forced to give up their bid for the 13th general election because they were the president's brother-in-law or his wife's sister's brother—have already taken up their positions in Taegu East District and Yongju, North Kyongsang Province.

Pak Chol-on, minister of sports and former advisor to the Wolgyesuhoe, who is related to the president on his mother's side, is also active in Susong, Taegu. Other Wolgyesuhoe leaders—Vice Minister Kim Yong-kyun (Hapchon, South Kyongsang Province), Assemblymen Kim Chong-kil (National Constituency, and Yongin, Kyonggi Province), Assemblyman Kang Chae-sop (National Constituency, and Taegu North District)—are competing with the incumbent district party chapter chairmen for nomination, banking on the fact that they were the old guards of the president. In addition, in the case of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), which is as close to the president as the Chongwadae secretariat, Director General So Tong-kwon (Yongchon, North Kyongsang Province) is being mentioned as a likely nominee without regard to his own choice, and Kim Ki-to, member of the NSP advisory council whose rank is equivalent to that of bureau chief, is hoping for nomination to run from the Samchonpo-Sachon area in South Kyongsang Province.

Among the incumbent ministers, vice ministers, and other government officials, who will also play an important role in building a royal guard, Finance Minister Yi

Yong-man, reportedly conveyed his desire to the hierarchy to run from Cholwon-Hwachon District in Kangwon Province, the former constituency of National Assembly Speaker Kim Chae-sun. Hyon Kyong-tae, secretary general of the Peaceful Unification Board, who closely assisted No Tae-u during the term of the 12th National Assembly, is anxious to consolidate his district campaign base in Cheju City with "the acquiescence of the ruling party." Home Minister Yi Sang-yon, former presidential secretary, has ostensibly marked Songju-Chilgok District in North Kyongsang Province as his constituency. In addition, the following officials pose a threat to the incumbent district chapter chairmen concerned in the race for nomination: Chong Chin-tae, chairman of the Emergency Planning Committee under the National Security Council, who was President No's Military Academy classmate; Choe Sang-yop (in Yongil, North Kyongsang Province), who is the minister of the Government Legislative Administration Agency and is at the top of the Taegu-Kyongbuk (TK) group's personal connections in the field of jurisprudence; Cho Yong-kil (in Chongsong, Yongdok, North Kyongsang Province), who is the chairman of the board of directors, Korean National Tourism Corporation (KNTC) and who was close to getting nominated in the 13th general election; and Kim Un-sang (in Kimhae, South Kyongsang Province), who is the managing director of the Korea Traders Association (KTA) with strong ties with the power center of the ruling party.

No Tae-u Appoints Two New Secretaries

SK1401113392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0947 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u has decided to name Kim Tong-chol, chairman of the Korea Legal Aid Corp., as senior presidential secretary for inspection and reform affairs, to succeed Kim Yong-il who plans to run for the National Assembly in the 14th general elections, it was learned Tuesday.

Ret. Brig. Gen. Kim Chae-yol, president of Namsungdae golf course, was chosen to be new senior presidential secretary for genreal affairs after Yim Chae-kil, who also will run in the elections, informed sources said.

Government Appoints Various Officials

Cultural Affairs Official Named

SK1101021892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0016 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—Yi Hye-sun, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East and African Affairs Bureau, was appointed director-general of the Cultural Affairs Bureau Friday.

Yi replaces Cho Ki-song, who will serve as an ambassador-at-large.

Choe Sang-tok, who was dispatched to the prime minister's secretariat, returns to the Foreign Ministry as director-general for Middle East and African Affairs.

State-Run Bank President Named

SK1301031492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—The government appointed Kim Chae-ki, vice president of the Korea Housing Bank, to be president of the state-run bank on Monday. Kim succeeds Chon Yong-su.

Pak Chong-sok, whose term as governor of the Securities Supervisory Board expires Feb. 5, was retained for another term.

Ministers Report Economic Plans for 1992

Government To Control Prices

SK1401041592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0238 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—The government, targeting this year's economic growth at a modest 7 percent, vowed Tuesday it will do its utmost to control the prices of rice and 19 other major essential consumer goods in order to help stabilize the nation's economy.

Barring great natural disasters, the government will not draw up a supplementary budget for this year. It will also try and direct the flows of capital into manufacturing and export industries and away from political campaigns for this year's parliamentary and presidential elections.

And from Feb. 1, the government will make it mandatory for its employees and other public organizations to abstain from driving their cars one day in every 10 days. The government hoped that the planned restriction, designed to help ease worsening traffic congestions in big cities and save energy, will spread to the private sectors on a voluntary basis.

Increases in public utilities fees will be kept at a 5-percent level, the government said.

The government plans to maintain the strict control of wasteful entertainment establishments through tax investigations while providing buyers of small houses and apartments with low-interest loans and extending financial support for house renters.

These are some of the major plans contained in a report submitted to President No Tae-u by Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu at Chongwadae [presidential residence] Tuesday morning. Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, the ministers of finance, trade and industry, energy and resources, labor affairs, communications, and science and technology attended the meeting.

Choe, who is head of the Economic Planning Board, told the president that the government will try and build the foundation for stable economy by holding the growth rate at 7 percent and improving the nation's balance of payment deficits.

The government will try its best to boost exports and stabilize consumer prices, wage increases and interest rates so that the administration will bring a proud and successful conclusion to the Sixth Republic, Choe said.

Finance Minister Yi Yong-man reported that his Ministry plans to control the total currency increase for this year at an annual rate of 18.5 percent. The Ministry will increase the funds for plants and equipment (24 trillion won), for small- and medium-sized companies (19 trillion won), for automation and information gathering facilities (1 trillion won) and for research and development (1.6 trillion won).

The ministry plans to guide banks, short-term financing companies and insurance firms to help direct the flow of capital into manufacturing and export industries and cooperate with the Office of National Tax Administration and other supervisory agencies to check illegal or misuses of capital, Yi said.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry will extend 170 billion won to the private sector to carry out the proposed development of 762 industrial technologies this year. It will introduce a system of guaranteeing the quality of products made through the newly developed technologies, Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su said.

In order to encourage exports, the ministry will establish a committee to help resolve difficulties facing the nation's export industries, Han said. In addition, the ministry will set up a fund of about 50 billion won over a period of five years to support smaller companies' efforts to develop overseas market for their products.

Moreover, the ministry will introduce a five-year plan to correct the lopsided trade imbalance in favor of Japan and encourage domestic development and production of machine-tools and other machinery which accounted for a bulk of Korea's imports from Japan.

Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol reported that his ministry plans to guide large enterprises and financial institutions to hold their wage increases at the five-percent level and provide assistance in labor disputes. It will also help alleviate labor shortage by establishing occupational training schools and employment agencies.

Science and Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon said his ministry will begin to undertake the development of "core technologies" for 14 products such as high-definition television and electric automobiles from June this year while establishing a financing company designed to provide capital for research and development.

No Tae-u Urges Revitalization

SK1401054492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u asked his economic ministers Tuesday to work harder for the government's efforts to stabilize prices and revitalize the nation's sluggish economy in the new year.

The president's instruction came at Chongwadae [presidential residence] Tuesday morning after No listened to a report submitted by Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu and six other economic ministers including Yi Yong-man of the Finance Ministry and Han Pong-su of the Trade and Industry Ministry.

No urged the ministers to work together under the direction of Choe, who is also minister of the Economic Planning Board (EPB). The president said he will censure them should they fail to carry out government policies spelled out in the report because of turf fighting, selfish interests or political considerations.

Noting that he has decided to postpone the local elections to lessen the nation's economic burden, No said political problems should not be allowed to interfere with the government's economic plans since his administration has given a top priority to economic recovery this year.

No instructed the deputy prime minister to persuade all parties concerned to be flexible in this year's wage negotiations, carry out government plans to build infrastructures and reflect them in next year's budget.

No, turning to the finance minister, asked him to facilitate the flow of capital into the manufacturing sector while fostering the growth of small- and medium-sized companies.

The president also urged the minister of trade and industry to try and narrow the nation's trade deficits.

Fair Trade Commission Aims To Prevent Monopolies

SK1401053992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0510 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—The Fair Trade Commission's [FTC] seventh five-year plan aims to prevent monopolies and apply fair trade laws to foreign firms and international contracts. The plan (1992-1996) also aims to prevent the concentration of wealth and set more stringent guidelines for investment by conglomerates.

The FTC will take measures to promote competition in 27 goods set as monopoly products from 1981, such as refrigerators, automobiles and beer, officials said. Measures will include restriction of investment to 40 percent of assets and heavy punishment of violators.

Current guidelines define a conglomerate as a corporate entity with 400 billion won or more in total assets, and list a company as a monopoly if it sells 30 billion won or more of its products on the domestic market. These guidelines will be adjusted.

The plan bars expansion and monopoly by restricting mergers and acquisitions. It calls for a special inspection of trade practices within a business group, and bans special price or contract conditions for transactions between subsidiaries of the same group.

Reviews will be conducted every three years to update the government's financial and industrial policies.

To prevent wealth concentration, the FTC will strengthen the inheritance, gift and other related tax systems as well as rules on firms going public to discourage property bequests.

The plan calls for designating 56 areas in 21 industries such as agriculture, finance, communication, sea and air transportation, construction and tourism that need support for both domestic and international competition.

In preparing for internationalization and liberalization, the FTC plans to apply Korea's fair trade laws to international contracts and foreign firms. It also plans to set up specific measures aimed against market monopoly by foreign companies.

Standard regulations on international contracts will be strengthened and new ones will be prepared for relatively new areas such as franchises and software imports.

Trade Minister Requests White-Collar Pay Freeze

SK1401042792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su asked business leaders Tuesday to freeze the pay of executives and reduce hikes for white-collar workers regardless of agreements with unions.

Meeting the heads of the nation's five major economic organizations at a downtown hotel, Han warned that the government would take punitive actions, including credit control, against enterprises that gave workers pay raises in violation of its guidelines.

These firms would also suffer disadvantages in access to public projects and obtaining government financial support, the minister said.

He said the government wanted to see a maximum 5-percent wage increase for employees of government-invested and -affiliated companies and organizations, large-sized firms and service companies. For small and medium industrial firms, wage increases would be restricted by the limits of productivity growth, he said.

Industrial firms with stable wages will be given preferential treatment in issuing corporate bonds and receiving financial support from the government. They will be exempt from tax probes for a certain period of time.

The government will also strengthen financial and tax benefits for firms that have labor disputes in the course of stabilizing wages, the minister said.

According to the ministry, Korea could compete with Japan and Taiwan during 1984-87 because workers' pay grew at a single-digit rate while productivity leaped at a double-digit rate.

Korea has lost competitiveness since 1988 as wages soared and productivity dropped, the ministry said.

It partly blamed the high wage increases for the deficit in the nation's international balance of payments since 1990.

In 1989 alone, the ministry said, the unit labor cost, wage growth minus productivity growth, increased 17.4 percent. The rate averaged 9.3 percent during 1988-90, compared with -2.5 percent in Japan and 3.9 percent in Taiwan, the ministry said.

DLP To View Security Policies Before Elections

SK1401064292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] will give serious thought to the National Security Law and study a few other controversial issues before the nation goes to the polls in late March, party sources said Tuesday.

Key post-holders, including Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, chief policy-maker Na Wung-pae and other policy-related officials, discussed major policies for 1992 in a downtown hotel Tuesday, they said.

It was decided to consider revision of the National Security Law and reduction of compulsory military service as a result of improvements in inter-Korean relations.

To ensure continued progress in inter-Korean dialogue and exchange, the DLP will take steps for free travel, telecommunications and trade in goods and materials between the halves of the Korean peninsula.

The government party will also consider actions to ease tension on the peninsula through a nuclear ban and mutual arms reduction.

The DLP has selected seven tasks for "the opening of a great era of the Korean peninsula" this year—establishing a mature, democratic political culture, achieving an advanced economy, energizing farming and fishing communities, making the living environment cleaner, building an advanced democratic society, laying the basis for national reunification, and actively adapting to the new international order.

The party will work out detailed policy pledges in 10 fields, including traffic, the environment, prices and land management, from Friday. From early next month, the DLP will hold seminars in Pusan, Taegu, Kwangju and three other major provincial cities to select policy promises that suit the different conditions of each area.

Survey Shows Professors Support Election Delay

SK1401062292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0501 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—A majority of professors support President No Tae-u's decision to postpone elections for mayors and provincial governors scheduled for the first half of 1992, according to a poll conducted for YONHAP on No's New Year press conference.

Korea Research Center questioned 500 professors of politics, administration, economics and business management Jan. 11-12 by telephone across the country. The margin of error is 4.4 percent.

Almost 54 percent of those questioned said they viewed the postponement of the elections positively, but 38.6 percent disliked No's decision. Nearly 57.7 percent of the economic professors gave No high marks but his support fell to 49.5 percent among political professors.

While 40.6 percent said 1993 was the proper year to hold the suspended elections, 1994 was chosen by 17.4 percent and 1995 by 4 percent, indicating that the pollees hoped the elections would take place at the earliest time despite postponement.

By age, 74.6 percent of those in their 60's were behind No's decision but support progressively dropped to 59.8 percent among those in their 50's, 48.9 percent of those in their 40's and 33.3 percent of those in their 30's.

Among the professors, 76.8 percent applauded his decision to hold the ruling party's presidential nominating convention after the general elections, and 14.4 percent said it was improper.

Asked to name No's no. 1 urgent task, 46.6 percent chose stabilization of prices. Political stability was a distant second, pinpointed by only 8 percent.

Also listed were improving the trade balance (7.4 percent), use of real names in financial transactions (4.6 percent), industrial stability (3.8 percent), consistency in economic policies (3 percent) and stabilization of housing prices (3 percent).

Asked to project the optimum rate of nomination for incumbent National Assemblymen in the general elections, the professors said 48.3 percent of ruling party lawmakers should be replaced and 49.6 percent of their opposition counterparts.

On what they wanted in a lawmaker, morals were the overwhelming first choice (64.2 percent), followed by novelty (11.4 percent), career (12.2 percent) and party affiliation (9.8 percent).

Just over 57 percent negatively viewed Hyundai Group owner Chong Chu-yong's foray into politics, but 33.4 percent saw nothing wrong with his action. The younger the respondents were, the more they supported Chong—63.8 percent in their 30's extended support and 56.3 percent in their 60's were behind Chong.

Almost 45 percent said reunification of the Korean peninsula could occur this decade, 21.6 percent said within five years and 4.6 percent said it was two to three years away.

Tight Credit Control During Elections Vowed

SK1301020892 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 9 Jan 92 p 7

[Interview with Finance Minister Yi Yong-man by Yom Chu-yong, city page reporter; date not given: "Not Even a Modicum of Bank Money Loaned to Enterprises Will Be Allowed To Be Used as Political Funds"]

[Text] Concerned voices are being raised about the economic prospect. Economic factors such as a low competitive edge, lack of new technology and goods, and low worker morale, as well as such noneconomic factors as the impact the four sets of elections scheduled to be held this year will have on the economy as a whole are the concerns expressed by many people.

In a bid to lessen the devastating effects of the elections on the economy, the government has made public a plan for completely blocking bank money loaned to enterprises from being used for elections from the beginning of the new year.

Following is Finance Minister Yi Yong-man on how to manage the credit control of enterprises and how to correct the capital flow.

[Yom Chu-yong] With four sets of elections scheduled for this year, there is a great possibility that the funds loaned to enterprises for reviving our economy may flow into political circles to be used for elections, burdening the already troubled economy even more, destabilizing prices, and corrupting the elections. People are very concerned about this possibility.

Do you have a plan to cope with this development?

[Yi Yong-man] The most important task for this year is to stabilize the economy. This task is more important than ever. In this context, I will see to it that the limited available credit goes into productive manufacturing sectors while stabilizing the monetary management.

I also plan to concentrate on lowering interest rates and on strengthening financial and tax-related assistance to enterprises so that they can increase exports, develop technology, and invest massively in equipment and facilities.

In particular, if we fail to keep bank credit from flowing into political circles for political funds, we will find it impossible to revive our economy or set an example for fair elections. Thus, I am firmly determined to keep an eye on the capital flow.

[Yom] I remember that whenever elections were held, money used to flood our society and prices tended to rise. Do you think this tendency will repeat itself this year?

[Yi] When elections are held, a large number of people working in the manufacturing sector tend to leave their workshops to join election campaigns, causing serious manpower shortages in the industrial sectors. This phenomenon is accompanied by rising wages which in turn sends the prices soaring, eventually loosening the social atmosphere on the whole.

Naturally, this runs the risk of reducing the working people's will to work and their productivity. In an effort to dissipate this, I will try to stabilize the flow of money based on monetary goals and try to keep the monetary expansion likely to be caused by elections from destabilizing the prices and creating apprehension.

In particular, during the elections the rate of cash flow tends to rise and stimulates the prices even when the overall monetary circulation is not very high. To keep this from happening, I will concentrate on blocking money loaned from banking institutions and operational funds of enterprises from being used as political funds and even as consumption funds. I plan to maximize the auditing and investigative functions of the banking institutions and tax offices.

[Yom] What is your plan to prevent enterprises' operating funds from being used as political funds?

[Yi] I will strengthen tax administration and credit management for fund transactions among sister companies to prevent a bank loan from flowing over to a sister company or to the company owner.

I will also see to it that business firms selected for special government assistance receive funds and that they use those funds only for strengthening their competitive edge, while making every effort possible to keep the credits loaned to these business firms from being used for other purposes.

To this end, I will take proper measures to strengthen the management of such funds as call loans and company bonds supplied by nonbank financial institutions, as it is difficult to thoroughly control funds through the banks alone.

I also plan to strengthen supervision and auditing of all the financial institutions. If any of these banking institutions fail to implement the policy on improving the circulation of funds, I will see to it that the heads of such banking institutions be held accountable for their failure according to disciplinary regulations.

I believe that this year is a watershed for our economy in terms of whether its stability can be restored. Therefore, I will do my best to work with all personnel in financial circles to keep the base of stability.

[Yom] People are concerned about the excessive expansion of the services sector and the shrinking manufacturing sector. Do you have any measures to fight this phenomenon?

[Yi] In order to vitalize our economy, it is important to strengthen the competitive power, mainly in the manufacturing sector, while restraining excessive growth of the consumable service industry.

For this purpose, with an increase of 3 trillion won over last year, a total financial aid of 24 trillion won has been appropriated for a facility fund this year to promote facility investment. Out of this fund, 18 trillion won will be provided to the manufacturing industry.

In addition, more than 1 trillion won, which is almost double that for last year, will be provided for computerization and automation to increase the competitive power by reducing personnel and lowering production costs through automation of facilities.

[Yom] There are signs of recurring investment in real estate speculation due to pork barrel promises given by the political parties during the general elections, such as promises on local development. Do you have any countermeasure for this?

[Yi] As a result of the consistent efforts in taxation and banking to block real estate speculation, the property and land prices show the sign of stability.

Given the possibility of recurring property speculation as a result of pork barrel promises that are expected to be made by politicians during the election campaign, I will closely check up on changes in the price of real estate and will take timely necessary measures against it.

Above all, however, I think each candidate should refrain from making promises to the constituents in a bid to discourage property speculation.

[Editor's note] Commenting on public concern that industrial funds have already begun flowing into the political circle as evidenced by the formation of a new political party by Chong Chu-yong, former Hyundai Group chairman, Minister Yi repeatedly emphasized the principle that "no enterprise can expect exceptional treatment from the government when it comes to the government policy on completely blocking the diversion of industrial money from flowing into political circles."

Government Attacks Illegal Campaign Contributions

SK1401020492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 14 (YONHAP)—The government vowed a full investigation into illegal campaign contributions Monday as South Korea prepared for general elections in two months.

Kim Yong-il, senior presidential secretary for justice and inspection, told a meeting at the Chongwadae presidential office Monday that the prosecution would cooperate with the Office of National Tax Administration and Office of Bank Supervision to prosecute everyone taking or giving illegal donations.

The elections are tentatively set for March 20 and parties have begun to organize their campaigns.

Illegal business contributions to campaign coffers would hurt management conditions and spark inflation, undermining efforts to bring about an economic recovery, Kim said.

Apparently with an eye on the party set up by Hyundai Group owner Chong Chu-yong, Kim said this year's polls could turn out to be the most expensive ever.

Twenty-five people are under investigation on suspicion of engaging in illegal campaign activities, and 17 lawmakers and party members have been booked on charges of violating election laws.

The lawmakers include seven from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party—Reps. Chong Chang-hwa, Kim Chong-su, Na Ung-pae, Na Chang-chu, Sin Ha-chol, Kang U-hyok and Yi Ki-pin—and one from the main opposition Democratic Party, Rep. Yang Song-u.

Defense Ministry on Protecting Military Secrets

SK1301132992 Seoul YONHAP in English 1302 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry will issue licenses to read or use military secrets to civilians on condition that they submit written pledges not to leak the secrets.

Under regulations revised by the Defense Ministry for immediate implementation Monday, commanders of individual military units or director-general level officials in the Defense Ministry will be empowered to judge the secrecy of materials to be used for public relations.

Previously, only the commander of the Defense Security Command had the right to determine the level of secrecy of a material.

The ministry said it revised the regulations in an effort to help activate research in defense industry and national defense.

The revised regulations enable commanders of respective units to designate or open "restricted areas" in consideration of general conditions in and out of their units.

As for "control areas," their designation and opening will continuously be allowed only on approval from the defense minister.

Visits by civilians to non-military facilities of defense industry will be available on approval from the management of the company, instead of an approval of the defense minister.

The ministry will also allow foreign nationals of countries with which South Korea maintains a military secret protection agreement or countries with which Korea negotiates to conclude the agreement to get access to military secrets after confirming their identities.

The countries with which Seoul maintains military secret protection accords include the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. Korea is negotiating with Malaysia, Turkey and Thailand to sign similar agreements.

The ministry also decided to open items classified as secret to news media if they are judged to be clearly conducive to satisfying the people's right to know and enhance national security.

A ministry spokesman said that the revision of the regulations was made to cope positively with changing circumstances like the establishment of diplomatic ties with East European countries and to meet the people's right to know.

The ministry will also amend the military secret protection law, which is now being reviewed at the constitutional court for its alleged unconstitutionality, after the court makes its ruling, he said.

Burma

Mauritius Minister Arrives, Calls on Abel

BK1301152592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Mr. Anil Kumar Baichoo, Mauritius minister for trade and maritime affairs, leading a two-man delegation, arrived by Myanmar [Burma] Airways in Yangon [Rangoon] this morning for discussions on bilateral economic and trade matters.

The delegation was welcomed at Yangon Airport by Brigadier General Abel, minister for planning and finance, and for trade; U Maung Maung Kyaw, director general from the Directorate of Trade; U Ba Thwin, director general of the International Organizations and Economics Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; U Aye Kyi, managing director of Myanmar export and import enterprise; and responsible personnel from the Trade Ministry.

The delegation later called on Brig. Gen. Abel, minister for planning and finance, and for trade, at the Trade Ministry at 1500 and held frank and cordial talks on bilateral trade and economic matters. Responsible personnel from the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Trade also attended the meeting.

Brig. Gen. Abel hosted a dinner in honor of the Mauritian minister for trade and maritime affairs and a party at the Karaweik Hall this evening.

Elected Representative Permitted To Resign

BK1301142992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Announcement No. 1,000 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar (Burma); Dated 13 January 1992]

[Text] Subject: U Oo Byit Tu, elected representative from Myitkyina township constituency-2, Kachin State, given permission to resign.

1. U Oo Byit Tu, who represented the Kachin State National Congress for Democracy and was elected to the Myitkyina township constituency-2, Kachin State, during the multiparty democratic general elections, has voluntarily sought permission from the commission to vacate his seat for health reasons.

2. Acting on the above submission by U Oo Byit Tu, and in accordance with Article 11-E of the Elections Law, the elections commission hereby permits the resignation of U Oo Byit Tu as elected representative from Myitkyina township constituency-2, Kachin State, effective today.
By the authority vested in me,
Signed: Aye Maung, secretary.

Environmental Protection Measures Explained

BK1301122392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs and chairman of National Environmental Protection Commission [NEPC], this morning invited the heads of diplomatic missions based in Yangon [Rangoon] and the heads of United Nations agencies to the Hlawga Park to explain the effective environmental protection measures carried out by Myanmar [Burma]. [passage omitted]

U Thein Lwin, director of Wild Life and Sanctuaries Preservation Sub-Department under the Department of Forests, explained the environmental protection measures to the guests at the lawn in front of the nature preservation museum in Hlawga. He said the administration, extraction, and use of forestry products in Myanmar had not affected the environment. This practise had originated with the use of the term 'royal' for the teak tree during the reign of King Alaungpaya and the constituting of the Yadanabon capital as a sanctuary during the reign of King Mindon. He added that today's world biological and environmental protection strategy coincides with the 130-year old system the Forestry Department has been following. He said the Alaungdaw Kathapha natural park is significant proof that although timber has been extracted until today, Myanmar has maintained the stability of the environmental and biological systems. He finally stressed that one country's efforts are not sufficient to protect the world's vast natural resources and the collective efforts of the world family are needed to hand over an unspoiled environment to the future generation. [passage omitted]

The ministers, heads of diplomatic missions and UN agencies, and invited guests left Hlawga Park in the afternoon.

Myanmar has been giving priority to environmental protection activities. Thus, for more effective environmental protection activities the NEPC headed by Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw with 21 members and four other supporting work committees—the Natural Resources Preservation Committee; the Environmental Pollution Protection Committee; the Research, Educational and Information Committee; and the International Relations Committee—were formed in February 1990.

At the national level, the NEPC has been implementing environmental protection awareness plans. At the regional level representatives have been sent to attend seminars and international forums. Environmental protection training programs for employees of various ministries are also being planned. Necessary preparations are being made for the UN Environmental Protection and Development Congress to be held in Brazil in June 1992.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

U.S. Officials Dismiss EAEC Discord Concerns

BK1301014592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0121 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 13 (AFP)—Malaysian and U.S. officials have dismissed worries here that a dispute over Washington's rejection of a proposal by Kuala Lumpur for a regional economic grouping might sour bilateral ties.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi and U.S. Ambassador Paul Cleveland said they saw no reason why differences over the East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC) would affect relations.

Business circles have expressed concern that a series of attacks on Washington by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for opposing his initiative to group the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam might damage economic ties.

Cleveland said, "Trade and investment remain the same and both countries are working together in various other global issues for mutual benefits," adding that U.S. investment in Malaysia stood at some seven to eight billion dollars.

Abdullah said the U.S. rejection of the EAEC proposal would not hurt ties so long as Washington confined its disagreement to that issue.

"It so happens that both countries differ and are unbendingly inflexible in their views on this particular issue," Abdullah told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE], saying the United States should be "democratically sporting and not use the EAEC to launch a confrontational stance against us in other fields of cooperation."

Remarks by U.S. President George Bush in Singapore last week moved Mahathir to launch a new attack, saying the rejection reflected Washington's disrespect for other nations.

The United States should keep its opposition of the EAEC concept to itself and not arm-twist other nations into backing its stance, Mahathir said.

Bush had reiterated Washington's attitude to the proposal, warning of the danger of the world slipping into mutually exclusive trade blocs.

The heads of governments of ASEAN—Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei—are expected at their January 27-28 summit in Singapore to endorse Mahathir's plan, mooted in December 1990, to create a loose consultative forum .

Cleveland, denying any cooling of relations in his dealings with Malaysian officials, refused to discuss their statements criticising the U.S. stand.

Malaysian officials have argued that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the 1993 European single market are protectionist moves that will hurt East Asian countries, which must group to safeguard their interests.

NAFTA is expected to be ratified by Congress in 1992 and be enforced in 1993.

Cleveland rejected criticism of NAFTA, saying it was "clearly a free trade area" aimed at removing restrictions between the United States and Mexico.

He said NAFTA corresponded with proposals for a free trade area in ASEAN, which Washington favoured. He added that while the agreement would in the longer term benefit ASEAN, it could resort to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade if it found itself disadvantaged.

"But EAEC is different," he said, describing it a grouping for considering policy which would draw a line down the middle of the Pacific and which was not designed to remove barriers.

He said he could not understand why "anyone in Asia would want to exclude the market for much more than half of its products from discussion and economic trading."

Yang Shangkun 'Happy' With Results of Visit

BK1401043592 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0414 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Pulau Pinang, Jan 14 (OANA/BERNAMA)—President Yang Shangkun of China left here for home Tuesday after a five-day visit to Malaysia.

President Yang and his delegation, who left the Bayan Lepas airport on this island state in a special aircraft, were sent off by Penang Chief Minister Dr. Koh Tsu Koon, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Abang Abu Bakar and state executive councillors.

President Yang and his 68-member delegation arrived in Pulau Pinang on Saturday after spending a day in Langkawi Island.

Dr. Koh told reporters later that President Yang had invited him to visit China.

He said President Yang was happy with the visit and hoped to come again to Pulau Pinang.

Dr. Koh said he also held discussions with China's Vice Prime Minister Wu Xueqian and both parties agreed to step up bilateral trade and investment.

There was a possibility that a twin-city programme be held between Georgetown and Xiaman, a city in the Fukien Province, as part of Pulau Pinang's tourism promotional efforts.

No Problems Seen in Japan's Peacekeeping Role

OW1401091192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0751 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan. 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed told a visiting Japanese lawmaker Tuesday that Malaysia does not take issue with Tokyo's plan to join United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Koji Kakizawa, parliamentary vice minister for foreign affairs, quoted Mahathir as saying Japan must play a more important role in international society.

"I don't see any problem at all" with Japanese participation in overseas peacekeeping operations, Mahathir reportedly told Kakizawa during a 30-minute meeting.

Mahathir also said Malaysia will consider taking part in peacekeeping in Cambodia's ongoing peace process if the U.N. so requests, the Japanese official said in an interview following the meeting.

The Japanese Government failed to win parliamentary approval in December of a peacekeeping bill authorizing the use of Japan's Self- Defense Forces.

But the move has drawn sharp reactions from China and some other Asian neighbors that were under Japan's military rule during World War II.

Referring to Malaysia's plans to increase the number of students and technological trainees in Japan, Kakizawa told Mahathir Tokyo is considering offering official credits to help finance them.

In this connection, he also said an unidentified Japanese university is moving to open a branch school in Malaysia.

Kakizawa also briefly met with Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Tun Razak and Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Here to attend a seminar on Japan and Southeast Asia, he was scheduled to return home Thursday following a three-day visit to Indonesia.

Amnesty Group Appeals Rejection of Application

BK1301163592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 13 (AFP)—A Malaysian group appealed to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Monday to reconsider his government's rejection of their application to form a local chapter of Amnesty International.

The 100-member group's chairman, Joseph Paul, said the Registrar of Societies gave no reason for turning down the application last month.

"We are baffled by the registrar's actions, and have submitted a letter of appeal to the prime minister, who is also the home minister, through the registrar this morning," he said.

Paul said the aims of the group were not in any way subversive nor were they meant to provoke the government. "Many people including the government harbor misconceptions about the objectives of Amnesty International," he added.

Amnesty International, which monitors observance of human rights worldwide, has repeatedly called for abolition of Malaysian security laws allowing indefinite detention without trial.

Paul said the proposed Malaysian chapter of Amnesty International would not be guided or funded by the London-based organization although it would subscribe to the same objectives.

He said that although Amnesty International would help create greater awareness of human rights within Malaysia, it would not specifically take up the case of any Malaysian to ensure the organisation's impartiality and independence.

Mahathir Concerned Over 'Neocolonialist' Efforts

BK1301152192 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] China has agreed to join the East Asian Economic Caucus [EAEC] after it is formally established. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that he got the assurance during his meeting with Chinese President Yang Shangkun last Saturday. The prime minister said that China was prepared for talks if there were problems threatening international free trade. He made the remarks during a press conference after chairing the meeting of the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Supreme Council in Kuala Lumpur today.

Dr. Mahathir also spoke about the existence of certain powers that wanted to recolonize the country even though it has been independent for a long time. Commenting on members of the Bar Council discrediting the country abroad, the prime minister said that the council, like non-government organizations [NGOs], wanted to put the country back under colonial rule.

[Begin Mahathir recording] In fact, the Bar Council [words indistinct] foreigners against our country. They appear to be dissatisfied with our country's independence. Thus, they are trying as much as possible to put our country under neo-colonialists, in this case NGOs. This is unacceptable. We have our own system and values. We have now seen attempts by certain powers to recolonize us. This is unacceptable. In fact, a citizen should not discredit his or her own country. Only those who do not love their country can discredit their own country by making false reports to other people. I learned of this by myself when I went to New York.

People there [words indistinct] and even named those who had given the information. [end recording]

He also said that the government would consider a proposal by the UMNO youth that financial assistance to law firms in the country be reviewed. He said that the government should not support law firms that do not support the government.

Economic Cooperation Between Races Urged

BK1301101892 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Jan 92 pp 1,5

[By Ahmad A. Talib]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Fri.—The economies of bumiputeras [indigeneous Malaysians] and non-bumiputeras must be integrated to prevent ill-feelings and jealousy from any quarter, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said.

The prime minister said the country could not afford to have two separate economies, emphasising that cooperation between the two was not only good in efforts to achieve the objectives of the New Economic Policy [NEP] and the National Development Policy but for politics and the nation as well.

"The truth is we cannot have two separate economies in the country. The bumiputera and non-bumiputera economies must be integrated to avert any jealous feeling by any group.

"Thus, the participation of non-bumiputeras in this congress is important. They have a role in this congress and in the implementation of its specific resolutions."

Dr. Mahathir stressed this point when he declared open the third bumiputera economic congress organised by the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry here. The prime minister's address was followed by the presentation of several working papers by leading business leaders and frank panel discussions behind closed doors.

He said the cooperation between bumiputeras and non-bumiputeras required tolerance and patience. He told the participants that one of the reasons for the failure of the New Economic Policy was the approach taken by non-bumiputeras.

"They prefer to have their bumiputera friends not taking any business risks and not active in management. With this, the bumiputeras would forever remain ignorant and therefore would have to rely on their non-bumiputera friends all the time.

"They may derive much benefits from this arrangement but they may also be burdened forever by one NEP after another. It is better for them to ensure that their bumiputera friends get involved in business fully. They would not lose because the risk is also taken by their bumiputera colleagues."

Dr. Mahathir, in his usual cool and uncompromising manner when speaking his mind, also told the participants that it was clear that various efforts have been taken to increase bumiputera participation in the field of business and industry so that they would not lag behind others.

But their achievements, especially as government suppliers were still not up to the mark. Many projects were abandoned, not implemented or just sold to non-bumiputeras, he said.

"We can continue to blame the government or request more assistance to help the bumiputeras. But can we convince ourselves that bumiputera failures can be overcome solely through government action?"

"Isn't there anything that the bumiputeras can and should do themselves? Aren't there any weaknesses on the part of the bumiputeras themselves that have prevented them from capitalising on all that were given them?"

Dr. Mahathir said one bumiputera congress could not identify or solve all the community's problems.

"Sometimes, the danger is that too much time is spent on deliberating the proposals, suggestions, and resolutions, leaving little time for them to be implemented effectively."

Singapore

Minister on ASEAN Summit, World Situation

BK1301125192 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Jan 92 p 26

[Text] The Fourth Asean Summit to be hosted in Singapore in two weeks' time will be a "significant opportunity to give Asean clear objectives and a fresh impetus", Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng said yesterday.

Reiterating Singapore's commitment to Asean as a "cornerstone" of its foreign policy, he said that Singapore will ensure that Asean "remains a force for regional stability and economic progress".

The creation of economic groupings in Europe and North America compels Singapore to strengthen co-operation within Asean, and in the wider Asia-Pacific with Singapore's major trading partners—the United States, the European Community and Japan, he added.

The Fourth Asean Summit, to be held from Jan 27 to 28, is expected to focus on improving economic co-operation among Asean member states.

In his addendum to the President's Address yesterday, Mr Wong also said that Singapore will progressively develop economic ties with South Africa.

Together with other Commonwealth countries, it has begun to remove sanctions against the country, where it noted that the system of apartheid was being "irreversibly dismantled".

On international matters, he said that rapid and dramatic international changes made it necessary for Singapore to adopt an increasingly international outlook and a flexible, robust and proactive foreign policy.

He reiterated Singapore's strong support for the United Nations' efforts in preserving law and order, adding that on its part, Singapore would find ways to enhance the security of small states and promote regional stability.

Singapore would also increase technical assistance to developing countries through the Singapore Cooperation Programme, a government aid programme for foreign countries.

"As a small country whose survival depends on access to the whole world, we must deepen and strengthen our relations with our old friends, and develop relations with other countries friendly towards us," he concluded.

Cambodia

Phnom Penh To Return Remains of 2 U.S. Marines

BK1101053692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0428 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 11—Cambodia will hand over Saturday the remains of two U.S. marines killed in a battle with the Khmer Rouge in 1975, the U.S. mission told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS] here.

The remains will be flown to the U.S. Central Identification Lab in Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S. Envoy Charles Twining said.

Twining and Phnom Penh Deputy Foreign Minister Long Visalo signed an agreement Friday to turn over the remains.

The move follows the announcement by U.S. President George Bush in Singapore last weekend that Washington would lift economic sanctions against Cambodia.

Positive identification would be made in Hawaii, Twining said, but said he was hopeful they could be from what has become known as the Mayaguez affair, an incident which took place on May 15, 1975.

Fifteen Americans were killed in this incident after then U.S. President Gerald Ford ordered marines to rescue the 39 crew members of an American container ship, the Mayaguez, 55 kilometers (35 miles) off the coast of Cambodia.

The ship had issued a distress call as it was seized by Khmer Rouge soldiers from a nearby island. But by the time the marines reached the ship from their base at U Taphao in Thailand, the crew had already been moved to mainland Cambodia.

The marines came under heavy attack and lost two helicopters. They had to be rescued by the U.S. Seventh Fleet in a 14-hour show of might that stunned the Khmer Rouge into releasing the marines.

Ford ordered a bombing of the Cambodian coastline which killed countless Cambodians, devastated the country's only oil refinery and wiped out its small fleet of aircraft.

Khmer Rouge Senior Official Ieng Sary later said the attack on the ship was carried out by an over zealous local commander without authorization from above.

SNC Secretariat Approves Political Groups

BK1401102092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 14 (AFP)—Cambodia's four factions decided Tuesday, in a meeting that accomplished more than their Supreme National Council (SNC) had been able to do all year, to supervise the formation of embryo political groups and a fledgling free press.

Under the agreement, any group wanting to form a political party would make an application to the SNC, and any opposition newspaper could be set up, sources who attended the meeting of the SNC Secretariat said.

The Phnom Penh Government also lifted its last obstacle to allowing the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to supervise the release of political prisoners and prisoners of war, the sources said.

Visits to prisons by the ICRC started Tuesday, and if all went well detainees would be released within the next few days, according to the sources.

"It was a remarkably productive meeting with give and take on all sides, which contributed towards the momentum of the peace process," said one Western diplomat.

Also present at the meeting were Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, Khmer People's National Liberation Front representative Ieng Mouly, and ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.S. Security Council plus India, Japan, Australia and Thailand.

The local heads of the ICRC and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also attended.

Radio VGNUFC Reports on 11 Jan SNC Meeting

BK1401052392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] On 11 January, the Supreme National Council [SNC] held its second meeting in Phnom Penh at the Khemarin Pavilion under the august chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC.

Our correspondent reports that His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, member of the SNC and head of the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] party, proposed three agendas for the SNC to discuss at that meeting and at future ones.

The three agendas are:

1. The SNC should hold separate or joint discussions with the present UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] or the future UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] on the arrangement of concrete measures to create a neutral atmosphere in Phnom Penh for the smooth functioning of the SNC and the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

2. The SNC should hold separate or joint discussions with the present UNAMIC or future UNTAC on concrete measures for verifying the total withdrawal of foreign forces and ensuring their non-return to Cambodia.

3. The SNC should hold separate or joint discussions with the present UNAMIC or future UNTAC on the arrangement of concrete measures to supervise the gathering of each Cambodian party's armed forces, their disarmament, and a 70-percent demobilization of each party's armed forces as defined in the agreement.

At the meeting, the Phnom Penh side and the party of H.E. Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] also proposed their agendas.

After opening the meeting, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, informed the participants of the gists of the agendas proposed by each party for consideration and asked for a decision on which agendas they thought should be discussed first.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk asked: What should we begin with? This is a very important matter.

The samdech said: In fact, we should have implemented the agreement, but until as yet we have not done so.

The samdech stressed: The other day, you said that the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia had been delayed and that the elections would also be delayed.

The samdech said: Some people have distorted the fact by saying that I was the one who has caused the delay of the elections. Now, I would like to focus on the causes that have delayed the implementation of the agreement and the elections.

The samdech made a lengthy explanation on the causes for the implementation of the delayed agreement.

Regarding this matter, the samdech emphasized: The main cause is that the UNTAC has not yet come to Cambodia.

The samdech said: You have persuaded the Cambodians living abroad to set up political parties in Phnom Penh according to their wishes. But those Cambodians said that they dared not come yet for fear of their security when carrying out political activities.

The samdech added: How can a political party be set up and how can the election campaigns be carried out at a time when there is no respect for human rights nor a multi-party liberal democratic system? For this reason, I have asked for the UN deputy secretary general or the special envoy of the UN secretary general to come to Phnom Penh in order to discuss with me what process should be carried out first. Now, there is good news that the special envoy of the secretary general has already been appointed, that is, Mr. Akashi. I would like him to come to Phnom Penh as soon as possible.

After ending his speech, the samdech asked the participants to discuss and consider what should be done first.

After some other SNC members had expressed their respective opinions, H.E. Khieu Samphan voiced support for the samdech's opinion and said that only by carefully examining and deciding on the priority issue to be carried out first, can we work effectively. We must consider what is the most important, key problem that should be dealt with first. This will enable us to deal with the other matters successfully. Otherwise, we will not be able to deal with the right problem, thus causing an impasse. The samdech also cited an example of a Cambodian living abroad who still dares not come to Phnom Penh to launch political activities. This is another proof that there is still no neutral political atmosphere in Phnom Penh. This example alone points directly to the problem of how to create a neutral political atmosphere throughout Cambodia, particularly in Phnom Penh, so that our SNC can function normally.

This clearly indicates the matter to be settled first. To create a neutral political atmosphere throughout Cambodia, particularly in Phnom Penh, it is very necessary to urgently dispatch the UNTAC to Cambodia, at least initially its team of 1,000 to 2,000 men to Phnom Penh.

H.E. Khieu Samphan also spoke on a report that the UN Budget Commission would soon discuss the allotment of $20 million for a team of 1,000 de-mining experts to come to Cambodia. Another report said that H.E. Ahmed Rafeeuddin, the UN deputy secretary general, is asking for funds from three countries for the UN team in charge of organizing the elections in Cambodia. The report also said that this team might come to Cambodia before the UNTAC.

H.E. Khieu Samphan asked: Can the existing UN funds be used for the gradual dispatch of the UNTAC to Cambodia, particularly to Phnom Penh, so that it can join with the SNC headed by the samdech head of state in creating a neutral political atmosphere in Phnom Penh? Can these funds be spent on something else which is more beneficial and can they effectively resolve the right problem?

H.E. Khieu Samphan noted that at present, the military operations against the Cambodian national resistance forces, particularly DK forces, have escalated with the use of multiple rocket launchers, 130-mm artillery pieces, tanks, and so forth. This situation emphasizes the need to take urgent measures to make all foreign forces withdraw from Cambodia and disarm the four Cambodian factions' armed forces.

H.E. Khieu Samphan said that, prior to the arrival of the UNTAC, our SNC should hold discussions to reach a unanimous view and stance on a number of concrete measures for dealing with such important issues as:

How our SNC should join with the UNTAC in creating a neutral political atmosphere in Phnom Penh.

How our SNC should join with the UNTAC in supervising the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia.

How our SNC should join with the UNTAC in gathering all Cambodian armed forces, disarming them, and demobilizing them by at least 70 percent as defined in the agreement.

These three issues are very important issues that should be discussed by our SNC either separately or with the UNAMIC now and with the UNTAC in the future.

At present, we still cannot implement the agreement because the UNTAC has not yet come. However, we should hold discussions among ourselves in order to adopt a unanimous stance so that when the UNTAC comes we can quickly join with it in this process.

H.E. Son Sann, SNC member from the KPNLF, also expressed his opinion in which he called on the Phnom Penh side to release many KPNLF members who are still held as political prisoners.

As time was running out, the participants agreed to let Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk decide on the priority agendas to be discussed at the next and future meetings.

Ranariddh Explains Absence

BK1401031492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 2300 GMT 13 Jan 92

["Statement" of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, FUNCINPEC, and member of the Supreme National Council—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] 1. I reject the report that I, Norodom Ranariddh, and my father, Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, had a conflict of opinion regarding the party issue. There was no such issue. This is because Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk had given permission for the FUNCINPEC political movement headed by me to have a new name: the Sihanoukist Party [KANAPAK SAMDECH PHREAH SIHANOUK NIYUM].

2. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk withdrew this name because His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim and his party objected and protested to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk while the other Cambodian factions did not object or protest over the selection of this party's name.

3. I did not go to Phnom Penh because:

A) This action by H.E. Chea Sim runs contrary to the principle of liberal democracy in which each individual can choose his party's name according to his wish and in which no individual nor party should be allowed to force another political party to accept the name it so wishes or to reject any chosen name of another party.

In regard to the Paris agreement on peace in Cambodia, this objection by H.E. Chea Sim constitutes a total violation of and interference in the principles of equality among parties as defined in this agreement.

Also in this connection, it is imperative for all sides to fully respect all other political activities carried out within the framework of liberal democracy by each party according to its own interests.

For example, H.E. Chea Sim and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] recently used the prince father's picture as a means to gain benefit from his popularity for Chea Sim's own party. But we did not lodge any protest regarding this matter.

B) H.E. Chea Sim and the CPP can always apply pressure on the present-day Phnom Penh city—the site of the SNC—because it is not a neutral zone.

In this case, Phnom Penh can turn into a neutral zone only when all Cambodian parties respect and implement the Paris agreement on peace in Cambodia in its entirety and correctly; and the special envoy of the UN secretary general and the UN peacekeeping force quickly come to Phnom Penh in order to join with the SNC headed by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in implementing the Paris agreement on peace in Cambodia. Therefore, the rough and ineffective functioning of the SNC was not because I, Norodom Ranariddh, was absent. Instead, it was because the SNC has not yet been shown respect and recognition by all parties as the source of power and the sole legal organization of Cambodia during the transitional period and because the special envoy of the UN secretary general and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia or, UNTAC, have not yet appeared.

4. Due to the fact that after the prince father's election as the SNC chairman, my party, FUNCINPEC, still could not find another member to take the place of the prince father in the SNC, and because I, Norodom Ranariddh, was absent from the SNC meeting held in Phnom Penh last Saturday [11 January], the prince father who was the chairman of that meeting attended it as the representative of FUNCINPEC. This is clear proof that I and my father had no conflict or disagreement on any matter as some recent reports said.

5. Concerning the neutrality of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the SNC, I would like to reaffirm that Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk has not sided with any party. He has always adhered to neutrality in his capacity as the SNC chairman.

The selection of the party's name as the Sihanoukist Party does not mean that this party belongs to Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk nor that Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk sides with us. In fact, as the Sihanoukists, we would like only to use our right to name our party in line with our actual activities as individuals who are loyal to and who respect and love the long-standing noble ideals of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk.

I, Norodom Ranariddh, explained this matter clearly in an interview with a correspondent of the BANGKOK POST as carried in an article by James Pringle on 2 January 1992.

6. I would like to stress once again that myself and FUNCINPEC have not created any obstacle to the process and implementation of the Cambodian peace agreement. This is because FUNCINPEC and myself remain an SNC member and in my recent absence, FUNCINPEC was honored to be represented by our most esteemed and worshipped Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk.

Regarding the political and military framework, we continue to be in close and most sincere cooperation with the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] and remain within the SNC framework. For example, our representatives are still working with UNAMIC and have closely and most sincerely cooperated with it. Particularly on the battlefield, we have our permanent representatives working within the framework of the SNC Secretariat and our high-ranking officials with full authority are staying permanently in Phnom Penh to attend all working sessions presided over by Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk in order to discuss and settle important issues to achieve peace for our beloved motherland.

Sihanouk Says SNC Can Not Issue New Currency

BK1401074192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Jan 92

["Statement by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk;" dated 13 January—read by announcer]

[Text] Over the past few days, a number of people in our country distributed leaflets saying that the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] led by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk will be in charge of government administration and state affairs in Cambodia and will also use new banknotes and a new currency.

As chairman of the SNC, I have the duty to state specifically to the beloved children and compatriots that the SNC and myself are not holding any power in the government and state affairs and have no power to issue a new currency.

Beloved children and compatriots, please accept my most profound love and affection.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 13 January 1992

[Signed] HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk

Philippines To Designate Envoy to SNC

BK1401062192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] According to a report from the Supreme National Council [SNC], the Philippines Government will soon present credentials to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian head of state and chairman of the SNC, in order to officially establish its diplomatic envoy to the SNC.

This clearly shows that the Philippines recognizes only the SNC headed by Cambodian head of state Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the sole legitimate state power in Cambodia.

The Philippine people and Government, as all other ASEAN nations, want the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991 to be implemented correctly and meticulously in its entirety, particularly the point dealing with the joint supervision on the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia, for the sake of Cambodia's independence and peace and for peace and security in the region as a whole.

British Minister Focuses on Paris Agreement

Accord Implementation Discussed

BK1401085192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, held talks at the office of the Council of Ministers on the morning of 13 January with H.E. Lord Caithness, British minister of state, who was paying a three-day visit to Cambodia to observe efforts of all parties involved in and the progress of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement.

During the talks, H.E. Hun Sen stressed: Although Cambodia and Britain are far from each another, we have good relations with one another and Cambodia has received aid from Britain through various humanitarian organizations.

H.E. Hun Sen welcomed the British Government's stance of resolutely opposing the polpotists. He emphasized that the SOC strictly implements the Paris peace agreement signed by all Cambodian factions.

H.E. Hun Sen appealed for the early arrival in Cambodia of the UN Secretary General's special representative and UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to supervise the implementation of the agreement and organize the repatriation of Cambodian refugees before the approach of the 1992 rainy season.

In his reply, H.E. Lord Caithness agreed with H.E. Hun Sen's proposal and stressed that he welcomed the UN Secretary General's decision to send his special representative and mine-clearing experts to Cambodia. He affirmed that the British Government has workd out a plan to provide aid for UNTAC and also for Cambodia.

Development Aid To Increase

BK1401072692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0422 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 14—British Foreign Office Minister Lord Caithness announced here Monday that London would double its financial contribution to Cambodia's peace process, reported AFP.

Britain now plans to spend 20 million dollars over three years for special projects in Cambodia, Caithness said.

The total British commitment here, including its contribution as a member of the Security Council to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), would amount to more than 100 million dollars, he said.

"We have achieved a great deal since the signing of the Paris peace accord", Caithness said. "There is still a lot to be done to stick to the schedule. We must proceed with all haste... but there are immense difficulties to overcome".

At the October signing of the peace accord ending the civil war, Caithness pledge 10 million dollars for development aid to Cambodia.

The increased aid, to be spread over three years, would include the building of a new bridge at the Thai border city of Poipet, which thousands of refugees are to use to return home under a massive repatriation plan envisaged by the peace treaty.

"There is a bridge there, but it is not capable of taking the traffic", said Caithness, the first British minister to visit Cambodia since 1970. British aid will be used to build a second bridge at the site for heavy vehicular traffic and leave the first one as a pedestrian bridge, he said.

Thailand has pledged 70 million dollars to build a road from Poipet to the city of Sisophon, initially to help the repatriation process as well. Caithness lauded the cooperation between the two countries for helping the repatriation plan into action. Britain is responsible for building four of six repatriation centers, where the refugees are to be housed before being given land to begin growing their own crops.

The British minister spent Sunday touring the site of a future center in Battambang Province being built by the British humanitarian organization Christian Outreach.

Earlier Monday he met Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who, said Caithness, impressed upon him the necessity of deploying UNTAC as soon as possible.

The full peacekeeping operation is scheduled to begin before April. Currently, only a small advance mission is keeping Cambodia's fragile peace process together.

"We must persevere to meet the timetable," Caithness said. "You've had 21 years of civil war. It doesn't diminish overnight."

Following a visit to the Tuol Sleng museum, the high school where the Khmer Rouge tortured their victims before putting them to death, Caithness said the primary goal of U.N. aid and the West's interest in Cambodia was to guarantee such atrocities never happen again.

"We must not forget," he said.

Caithness arrived early Sunday by road from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He is to leave Tuesday for Thailand and Laos after meeting National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim.

Delegation Departs

BK1401052292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0434 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 14—British Foreign Office Minister Lord Caithness left here today for Bangkok after a three-day visit to Cambodia.

While in Cambodia, Mr. Caithness, who drove from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, early Sunday met with SNC Chairman Prince Sihanouk, Prime Minister Hun Sen, National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim and representatives of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

He also visited a reception facility for Cambodian refugees in Battambang Province and Angkor Wat temple, in Siem Reap Province, and toured the city of Phnom Penh and the Khmer Rouge torture museum Tuol Sleng.

Mr. Caithness announced here Monday that London would double its financial contribution of Cambodia peace process.

The total British commitment here, including its contributions as a member of the Security Council to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), would amount to more than 100 million dollars, he said.

Cease-Fire Violations by Khmer Rouge Reported

BK1401060692 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0410 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 14 Jan (SPK)—According to military sources, the polpotists many times violated the cease-fire agreed upon in the Paris agreement and a meeting of the mixed military working group was canceled.

According to the source, on 5 January some 100 polpotists from Division 616 pounded with many 85-mm and 82-mm artillery pieces the positions of Battalions 3 and 4 of Regiment 89 of government forces stationed in Voa Yeav, L'ak, Sangkum, Snay Dei, and Kdei Thnaot in Damrei Slap Commune, Kompong Svay District, Kompong Thom Province.

The following day, the polpotists launched attacks against Chambok Kanha and Lahong in Preah Damrei Commune, Stoung District [Kompong Thom Province] and carried out plundering, according to sources who add that on 7 January, the polpotists infiltrated into Bos Makak sector, fired four self-propelled H-107 projectiles on Krachap area, 9th ward of the Kompong Thom provincial seat, when the people were celebrating the 13th anniversary of the 7 January victory.

The same source says that General Michel Loridon, who heads the military component of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) and who chaired the Mixed Military Working Group (MMWG), which in accordance with the Paris agreement includes military leaders of the four Cambodian factions, had to cancel a meeting of the MMWG planned for 8 January. He demanded the presence of a Khmer Rouge general as stipulated in the Paris agreement instead of Mak Ben who is only a civilian cadre.

On 28 December, at a meeting of the MMWG in the presence of Ataul Karim, UNAMIC chief, Mak Ben pledged on behalf of the Khmer Rouge to strictly respect the cease-fire from 1 January 1992.

Actions of SRV 'Aggressors' Condemned

Continued Presence Discussed

BK1301045592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Station editorial: "Like Their Predecessors, the New Vietnamese Leaders Have Shed Crocodile Tears To Conceal Their Aggressive Strategy To Further Occupy Cambodia"]

[Text] The new Vietnamese leaders, like their predecessors, have always shed crocodile tears pretending to pity themselves and claiming that Vietnam has waged a protracted war and it was wrong for Vietnam to launch a war of aggression against Cambodia because this war has caused an acute economic crisis to Vietnam.

The Vietnamese aggressors said that Vietnam wants peace and friendship with its neighboring countries and that it does not want its troops to continue being stationed in Cambodia.

What is the truth about the Vietnamese presence in Cambodia?

In fact, there are Vietnamese forces on all battlefields in Cambodia. They are serving as advisers in Phnom Penh and the provinces, districts, communes, and villages; as administrative advisers controlling administrative affairs; and as military advisers specialized in tank, multiple rocket battery, artillery, arms arsenal, oil depot, and other fields. Moreover, Vietnam still has combat forces on active service in the Phnom Penh side's army.

In general, the Vietnamese forces are on full active service in the Phnom Penh side's army. In each Phnom Penh army brigade, there are 30 Vietnamese soldiers, including the commanding, liaison, and intelligence positions. In each regiment, there are 30 Vietnamese soldiers serving as commanding, combat, intelligence, and liaison positions. In each battalion, there are 30 Vietnamese forces serving as commanding, combat, intelligence, and liaison positions.

In each combat operation, these Vietnamese forces would be in charge of arranging both Vietnamese and Cambodian troops and their arms, including artillery and multiple rocket batteries, tanks, and all other equipment. In addition, there are Vietnamese intervention forces deployed in Cambodian military regions, such as 1,200 men in Stung Treng—1st military region; 2,000 in Kompong Cham—2d military region; over 2,000 in Kompong Speu and [words indistinct]—3d military region; 2,000 in the 4th military region; and over 3,000 in Battambang—5th military region. There are also fresh Vietnamese troops just dispatched from Vietnam, not by brigade or division but in small contingents at a time, such as 300 men to one place and 400 or 1,000 men to another place whenever they want to open up a battlefield. Sometimes, these Vietnamese troops will stay put on the battlefield and on some occasions they will withdraw after combat to rest in the western part of our Cambodia.

Therefore, many problems still exist concerning Cambodia's peace, security, and independence. This is because, on the one hand, the Paris agreement has not yet been implemented and, on the other, the Vietnamese forces—military, administrative, police, and civilian forces—are still everywhere in Cambodia both in Phnom Penh and the countryside. Particularly, there are over one million Vietnamese nationals controlling Cambodian territory and playing a role as a quasi armed forces especially in the eastern part of Cambodia.

Moreover, the Vietnamese have nibbled a large chunk of Cambodian territory in the eastern border which stretches from Ratanakiri, Mondolkiri, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kandal, and Takeo to Kampot Province. In the Kandal, Takeo, and Kampot regions, the Vietnamese have dug a new canal called (Vinh Te) located in an area several kilometers deep inside Cambodian territory in order to mark a new border line.

As for the territorial waters, the Vietnamese [words indistinct] canals. They have abolished the "Brevie Line" and mapped out a new sea border which stretches up to Cambodia's Koh Wai and Koh Tang Islands. The Vietnamese have also annexed Cambodia's Koh Ses and Koh (Ta Keay) Islands.

Numerous big problems regarding the Vietnamese aggression still exist. Do not take them as ordinary matters.

Thus, why did the Vietnamese leaders shed crocodile tears to fool the world public? It is because they want to fool the world public into believing that they are not thieves, but are good; that they are not occupying Cambodia; and that they have already settled the Cambodian problem thoroughly. Thus, the thieves have become the good in the world people's eyes. But to the Cambodian people, these above-mentioned problems are serious ones. And these people are the victims.

Therefore, the Cambodian people have every right to strive for the effective and meticulous implementation of the Paris agreement until all Vietnamese forces are withdrawn from Cambodia.

Resistance Areas Attacked

BK1101020692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] According to reports from Yea Ang commune in Thpong District, Kompong Speu Province, on 27 December 1991 the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors gathered 300 of their troops armed with all types of weapons and launched attacks against liberated zones under the control of the Democratic Kampuchea side in (?Phnum Kruos) and (?Phnum Poes) in Yea Ang commune, Thpong District, Kompong Speu Province.

This incident clearly shows that Vietnamese aggressor forces remain in Cambodia, particularly in Thpong District, Kompong Speu Province. Vietnam has violated the cease-fire agreement, and this is violating the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement itself.

Therefore, for the cease-fire to genuinely take place and to ensure the end of Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia, it is necessary to most urgently dispatch the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] so that the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] and UNTAC can cooperate in implementing the Paris agreement on Cambodia, and in particular cooperate to ensure that Vietnam withdraw all types of its aggressor forces from Cambodia.

Five Kampot Villagers Executed

BK1101024292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Our people and national council in Chhuk District, Kampot Province, have reported that:

1. On 14 December, the Vietnamese aggressors arrested and most barbarously and savagely executed three of our people in Trapeang (?Khloem) village in Trapeang Reang commune, Chhuk District, Kampot Province.

2. On 18 December, the Vietnamese aggressors arrested and executed two of our people in O village.

After arresting and executing the five people, the Vietnamese aggressors, in their propaganda, accused the Democratic Kampuchea nationalist resistance forces of killing these five people.

This clearly shows that the Vietnamese aggressors are not abiding by the Paris agreement to solve and end Vietnam's war of aggression. Along with the activities to destroy the Cambodian Supreme National Council headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the Vietnamese aggressors continue to vigorously carry out activities to kill our people in rural areas.

Our people in Trapeang Reang commune, like all the people in Kampot Province, appeal to everyone to join the SNC chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, and implement the Paris agreement to solve and end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia, in particular cooperate in checking that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia. Only this way can our people live in peace and earn their living free from the continued massacre by the Vietnamese aggressors.

Troops Lay Mines in Battambang

BK1401081992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Reports from Moung District [Battambang Province] say that along with attacking Cambodian national resistance forces along the Moung River and Phnum Bassak, the Vietnamese aggressors have intensified laying mines in the above areas.

The reports also say that the Vietnamese aggressors have planted mines in many places: along the roads people go out to earn their living collecting forest products, along streams, and in rice fields and small and large dikes. The majority of these mines are anti-personnel plastic mines which are hard to locate by mine detectors.

This is one of many areas in Cambodia in which the Vietnamese aggressors continue to plant and lay mines. This operation is part of the maneuver to deliberately destroy the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

Our people in Moung District would like to appeal to the Cambodian Supreme National Council lead by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia, to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, and in particular to the UN Mission, UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia]—whose task is to remove mines—to take firm and strict measures to prevent the Vietnamese aggressors from continuing to lay mines to kill the Cambodian people in violation of the agreement.

Disguised Troops Rob Kampot Families

BK1401085492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Summary] Recent reports from Kampot Province say that on 7 January a group of Vietnamese soldiers disguised themselves as troops of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] and robbed five families in Kandaol Village, Kandaol Commune, Kampot District, Kampot Province.

In the robbery the Vietnamese aggressor soldiers took whatever they could lay their hands on and burnt what they could not take with them. The reports also say that when they were robbing these families a few Vietnamese soldiers who can speak Cambodian threatened to kill the household heads while other Vietnamese soldiers remained silent. However, our people know that these are genuine Vietnamese soldiers in NADK uniforms because Cambodian and Vietnamese are very different. Our people would like to report this incident to the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, and the UN Advance Mission and call for the urgent dispatch of forces of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to cooperate with the SNC to ensure that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia.

Kompong Thom Villagers Robbed

BK1401085692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] On 27 December 1991, 12 Vietnamese and Phnom Penh soldiers, disguising themselves in the uniforms of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK], robbed our people in Kompong Krasang Village and a number of nearby villages in Santuk District, Kompong Thom Province. They also executed one person.

The people can distinguish NADK soldiers from Vietnamese. They confirm that these soldiers were definitely Vietnamese.

Siem Reap Villagers Robbed

BK1401085892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Reports from Siem Reap Province say that on 7 January Vietnamese and Phnom Penh troops stationed in Kompong Kdei and Svay Leu townships in Siem Reap Province gathered 750 of their soldiers and robbed our people in (Sambao A), Preah Theat, and Khvav Villages in Chikreng District, Siem Reap Province.

The Vietnamese aggressors fired on and seriously wounded four people, killed five cattle, and stole a lot of gold and money. These are activities by the Vietnamese aggressors in violation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

Following this incident, our people in the above villages and communes pledged to more firmly unite and cooperate with their local national councils to fight back in order to protect their lives, property, and cattle. To end this problem, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Supreme National Council must quickly inspect all places in Cambodia.

Troops, Nationals Settle in Ratanakiri

BK1201023892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Excerpt] The Vietnamese aggressors have sent Vietnamese nationals and troops from Vietnam to settle in 11 villages in Veun Sai and Andong Meas Districts in Ratanakiri Province, and in five villages in O Dambok and O Sethei.

A few days later, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors further dispatched five truck-loads of Vietnamese aggressor soldiers and secretly deployed them in various villages in which Vietnamese nationals have settled. [passage omitted]

Kompong Chhnang Demonstration Urges SRV Ouster

BK1201031892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] On 5 January 1992, over 300 people in Chranok, Samraong Sen, and Pou communes in Kompong Leng District, Kompong Chhnang Province, demonstrated and called for the return of their land expropriated and plundered by the Vietnamese aggressors.

All the people taking part in this demonstration were very angry with the Vietnamese aggressors and a number of their accomplices and servants who have plundered our people's land. The demonstrrators held up placards with slogans calling for the immediate expulsion of the Vietnamese aggressors from Cambodian territory and the immediate return of expropriated land.

The demonstrators also called for the most urgent dispatch of forces from the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to cooperate with the Supreme National Council [SNC] chaired by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, to jointly control the withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressors from Cambodia and to control the four Cambodian warring factions. They also called on the SNC led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, to assume control and administration of Cambodia's state affairs because only this SNC led by the samdech head of state is the legitimate and legal representative in Cambodia; there is no other state authority.

Indonesia

Papua New Guinea's Namaliu Continues Visit

Exchanges Views With Suharto

BK1401085592 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] President Suharto says Papua New Guinea can serve as a bridge linking ASEAN and Asia-Pacific countries. This was disclosed by Minister-State Secretary Murdiono when he briefed reporters on the outcome of two-hour talks between President Suharto and visiting PNG Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace today.

Murdiono added the two leaders had discussed international, regional, and bilateral issues during their talks. They share similar views on international issues because as developing countries, both Indonesia and PNG face similar challenges. It has also been agreed that PNG will become an observer at the upcoming ASEAN summit meeting in Singapore this month. The PNG prime minister said his country would learn from Indonesia's experiences in implementing development programs, including in aviation. As the PNG now has two [Indonesian-made] Cassa planes, Namaliu expressed hope that Indonesia's Nusantara Aviation Industry would provide spare parts and maintenance services for the planes. In this connection, Murdiono pointed out that Indonesia had offered technical assistance to train PNG technicians for the maintenance and repair of Cassa planes.

During this morning's talks, Namaliu also informed President Suharto on PNG's wish to lease a transponder of Indonesia's Palapa satellite and build a ground station with relevant communications equipment produced in Indonesia.

Murdiono also disclosed that PNG nationals living along the common border will be allowed to go shopping in the Indonesian territory. However, the two sides will have to decide on certain technical aspects first. While President Suharto briefed Namaliu on agricultural development in Indonesia, the PNG prime minister told him that PNG people had gradually adopted rice as their staple food.

During two leaders' talks, a parallel meeting was also held between Indonesian Defense Minister L.B. Murdani and his PNG counterpart Benais Sabumei, who were accompanied by the two countries' high-ranking officials. After the meeting, the two defense ministers signed the so-called Status of Forces Agreement. The PNG defense minister told reporters that the agreement would enable the two countries to cooperate in the training and exchange of personnel and allow PNG to buy military equipment, such as uniforms, from Indonesia.

Before holding talks with the PNG prime minister this morning, President Suharto met with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who reported to the president on his planned visit to Cambodia on 16 January, during which he is scheduled to hold talks with Prince Sihanouk to discuss the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

Meanwhile, Alatas told reporters that the Indonesian Government would welcome a special envoy of UN Secretary General Butros Butros Ghali in connection with the 12 November Dili incident. He noted that Indonesia always cooperates with the UN secretary general on the East Timor issue. However, Alatas stressed that if the United Nations wants to dispatch a special rapporteur or even an investigation team, the Indonesian Government will demand that a UN proper procedure be taken, which among other things stipulates that the dispatch of a special rapporteur cannot be granted at the request of one country only. In addition, the host country is entitled to approve or reject such request. Alatas made these remarks to clarify Indonesia's stand amidst uncertain press reports on the issue.

Says 'Ties Have Never Been Better'

BK1301154992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1354 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] JAKARTA, Jan 13 (AFP)—Relations between Indonesia and his country have never been better, visiting Papua New Guinea (PNG) Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said here Monday.

"I am proud to say tonight that the relationship between our countries, and our people, has never been in better shape than it is at this time," Namaliu said in a dinner speach at a state banquet in his honor hosted by Indonesian President Suharto.

Namaliu said a 1986 bilateral treaty of mutual respect, friendship and co-operation had brought the relationship "to the sound position we find it today."

In his return speech, Suharto said the close ties between the two countries could only be realized through "growing mutual understanding and trust," and added his hope that Namaliu's visit would further deepen it.

The two leaders were scheduled to meet for talks Tuesday and sign a Status of Forces Agreement which Namaliu labelled as "historic."

Namaliu said the agreement, a draft of which was signed by senior officials of both countries last Tuesday, would enable the armed forces of the two neighbors to benefit from greater assistance and cooperation in training, the acquisition of equipment and civic action programs.

Indonesian officials have said the agreement covered the rights and obligations of members of the two armed forces when on the territory of the other.

A group fighting for the independence of the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, which borders PNG, has been operating on both sides of the border and incursions into Papua New Guinea by troops in pursuit of rebels has been a past source of tension in bilateral ties.

But Namaliu said the relationship was no longer based on a single issue, the common land border, adding that the issue was now "being managed by both our governments in a most constructive and beneficial way."

The visiting premier, who arrived here earlier Monday, will leave Jakarta on Wednesday and visit an oil refinery in Dumai, in the central Sumatra Province of Riau, and a palm oil plantation in north Sumatra before flying on to Singapore the next day.

German Minister Comments on Dili Investigation

BK1401103492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0955 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 14 (OANA-ANTARA)—Visiting German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mrs. Ursula Seiler-Albring said the steps to be taken by Indonesia following the Dili incident of November 12 will be a matter of significance to her government.

The statement was made by the state minister at the German Embassy here Monday on completing her Indonesian visit at the invitation of Research and Technology Minister Professor B.J. Habibie. She added that the report submitted by the KPN [National Investigation Commission] fact-finding mission on the incident was met with favourable response by her government.

It was true the German Bundestag had at one time asked for the attention of their government to review the question of German cooperation and development assistance to Indonesia. [words indistinct] will also be made on the follow-up steps to be taken by the Jakarta Governmnent in dealing with the incident," [quote marks as received] she said.

Good relations between both nations have been going on since a long time, she observed. "I would say, as the KPN report had had a positive consequence, the existing cooperation will be maintained as usual," she reasoned.

Mrs. Seiler-Albring on her way back to her country will pay an official visit to Vietnam. During her stay here, she also paid a courtesy call on President Suharto and had a meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

Apart from the Bandung National Aircraft Industry, the Jakarta Technological Science Development Centre and Batam Island were also on her visiting programme.

German-Indonesian cooperation involves a variety of fields, she said—scientific matter and technology, economic development, investments, environment, exchange of cultures, non-governmental organizations programme, and continuous political dialogues.

With Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, she had discussed the current changes in both continents of Europe and Asia and development matters in both countries.

Germany is most aware of Indonesia's mounting role in the international political scene, and as Germany's major and responsible partner in international affairs, as has become apparent from the fact that Indonesia has been selected chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

Says Suspects Should Face Trial

BK1301142992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 13 (AFP)—A German official said here Monday that those responsible for a bloody shooting in East Timor in November should be brought to court, adding that the fate of people missing should also be clarified.

"Those responsible for the shooting must of course be brought to justice and correct proceedings must be guaranteed for those detained, and that the fates of those missing must be clarified," visiting German Minister of State at the Foireign Ministry Ursula Seiler-Albring said.

Albring, addressing a press conference ending her six-day visit here, also stressed that Germany "agrees with the findings of the recent advance report" by a presidentially appointed National Commission of Investigation (KPN) given the task to probe into the shooting.

The KPN report, made public on December 26, said that troops had shot without command into a crowd in Dili, East Timor on November 12, leaving around 50 people dead and 90 others missing.

Indonesian President Suharto has consequently replaced the top military officers responsible over East Timor and ordered Armed Forces Chief General Try Sutrisno to have those missing located.

"The readiness of the Indonesian Government to receive a special emissary of the secretary general of the United Nations is, in this context, seen as very encouraging," Albring said.

Authorities here have said 33 civilians were detained in East Timor following the incident, 14 of whom would be tried for subversion, which carries the death sentence as a maximum penalty.

However, Albring said that "Germany does not want to interfere" in the Indonesian judicial system, in reply to a journalist's query whether her government wanted guilty military members to face trial as well.

She said that there was "a lot of positive elements in the report but we have to wait for the conclusions, especially the dealing of those responsible for the shooting."

The KPN has said earlier in January that it expected to complete its final report on the incident within one month.

Albring said she intended to report "on the positive elements" to her government and added that East Timor "Will be on the agenda in the next meeting of the 12 (European Community) foreign affairs ministers on February 3."

The European Community, in a December declaration over the shooting in East Timor, had called for a thorough investigation.

Albring is scheduled to leave for Vietnam later Monday.

Philippines

Official: Early Subic Pullout May Affect Polls

HK1401031492 Quezon City MALAYA in English 13 Jan 92 p 8

[By Marie Rose Feliciano]

[Text] The United States may pull out all its forces from Subic Naval Base before the May 11 elections to "influence" the voting results, a Malacanang official said yesterday.

Under the one-year termination notice served last Dec. 31 by the Philippines on the U.S., the latter has until Dec. 31 this year to do it.

The official, who requested anonymity, said the premature departure would displace some 11,000 direct workers and 24,000 casual and contractual ones.

The action may hurt administration candidates since the government is "ill-prepared" to provide alternative employment to them, the official said.

The source also saw the possibility that the bases issue may be raised against some candidates.

The Aquino administration negotiated with the U.S. for the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Security, which proposed to give the US seven years to leave Subic.

The treaty was rejected by the Philippine Senate.

Other Nations Willing To Host U.S.

HK1401113192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has said that Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia are ready to accept American troops withdrawn from Subic Naval Base. Manglapus said that the U.S. needs to deploy its forces in different parts of the Asian region in order to maintain influence in the area. He also added that even if the government has served notice demanding withdrawal of U.S. troops within one year, they may still stay by means of new negotiations. Renegotiation between the Philippines and the United States may occur if a referendum is held.

Manglapus also said that the economy of Central Luzon had been greatly affected by the pullout from Clark Air Base and the impending withdrawal from Subic Naval Base. [passage omitted]

Review of U.S. Defense Pact Urged

HK1401031192 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 14 Jan 92 p 6

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa yesterday proposed a review of the bilateral mutual defense treaty between Washington and Manila in an effort to maintain security and stability in the region.

De Villa wanted security relations between the United States and the Philippines to continue even after the Americans have pulled out of Subic.

Meanwhile, American Ambassador Frank Wisner said the U.S. would not be able to withdraw from Subic Naval Base until November this year, dousing speculations that the Americans would abandon their bases here by June.

Wisner indicated they cannot finish dismantling all the equipment in Subic, the largest American overseas naval base, in six months because of the enormous work involved.

The U.S. withdrawal from Subic would displace thousands of workers. To cushion the impact of unemployment, President Aquino will release today a P10.6 million [Philippine pesos] package of livelihood assistance for 1,900 workers not only to be displaced by the base withdrawal but also those displaced by Mt. Pinatubo's eruption.

Mrs. Aquino will fly today to Subic and hand a P10 million livelihood fund check to labor secretary Ruben Torres, Zambales lawmaker Katherine Gordon and labor leader Roberto Flores. The money, which will be sourced from the President's Social Fund, will go to the "Livelihood, Employment and Entrepreneurship Program (Leep) for Displaced Workers," a project of the labor department.

In Pampanga, foreign secretary Raul Manglaps said the withdrawal of U.S. trops is pushing the U.S. to "redistribute its activities" in Southeast Asia, a move that might hurt the country's economy.

"It is interesting that we are phasing out the Americans while other countries in Southeast Asia are phasing them in," Manglapus told government officials and employees during the opening of the Department of Foreign Affairs extension office in San Fernando.

Wisner said only portions of the Subic Naval Base would be transferred to Singapore while the bulk of the naval units in the Philippines would be relocated in either Hawaii and Guam.

Singapore has earlier said the Americans would only allow greater access in its territory but would not be allowed the permanent basing of U.S. air and naval forces.

Wisner said the Americans would remain in Asia and would continue to strengthen the security and stability of the region.

He led American diplomatic and military officials in turning over to the Philippine Air Force Five C-130 Hercules transport aircraft and 10 OV-10 Bronco ground attack aircraft.

The aircraft were given to the Philippines under the American military's Excess Defense Assistance program.

The package includes some 1,000 military jeeps and trucks engineering and construction vehicles and materials, and aircraft.

The military said the Excess Defense Assistance [EDA] package was agreed upon by former defense secretary Fidel Ramos and U.S. defense chief Richard Cheney during the later's visit in Manila in February 1990.

But some officials said the EDA package was given to cover the $40 million shortfall in the U.S. military assistance under the Military Bases Agreement (MBA) compensation package for the 1990 program.

The American government promised some $200 million worth of military equipment and supplies but the U.S. Congress approved only $160 million.

General Lisandro Abadia, the AFP chief of staff, confirmed that the US government still has to deliver some $300 million worth of military equipment, spare parts and other materials which represent the accumulated undelivered MBA commitments.

The delivery would continue until 1994, especially for the Foreign Military Fund (FMF) program scheduled for 1991.

This is part of the October 1988 Manglapus-Shultz Agreement in Washington to give the country $400 million military aid in exchange for the use of the bases for 1990 and 1991.

Abadia said talks between the U.S. and the Philippine military were being held on the possible U.S. military assistance to the Philippine military's 10-year modernization program. Abadia said the military assistance program could be arranged through the 1952 Mutual Defense Treaty.

De Villa said the present Mutual Defense Treaty, established during the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the post-war period, needed to be changed or revoked.

But he said the treaty should only be reviewed once the U.S. has completed their withdrawal from the country by yearend.

Air Force Receives U.S. Planes

HK1401031592 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 14 Jan 92 p 3

[By Manuel Silva]

[Text] Five more OV-10 Broncos and the last of five C-130's were delivered yesterday to the Philippine Air Force [PAF] at turnover ceremonies in Villamor Air Base.

The five brought the total of fifteen OV-10 aircraft and five C-130's already delivered to the PAF by the United States.

Nine more OV-10's are scheduled for delivery soon to complete the PAF order of 24 Broncos, total cost of which is $31 million.

U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner turned over the aircraft papers to Defense Secretary Renato de Villa. Four of the OV-10's were flown from Subic to Villamor Air Base by PAF pilots, while the C-130 was flown from Cadena Air Base in Okinawa Japan.

According to De Villa the formal delivery of the aircraft reinforces the military alliance between the U.S. and Philippine armed forces, notwithstanding the rejection of the bases treaty by the Philippine Senate and the U.S. withdrawal from Subic.

According to De Villa the U.S. provides the Armed Forces of the Philippines military equipment in accordance with the Defense Article Program, at no cost to the Philippines.

Manila Seeks $4.2 Billion in Yen-Loan Package

OW1401115892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0951 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Manila, Jan. 14 KYODO—The Philippines has formally asked Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) for 4.2 billion dollars in loans under the 18th yen credit package now being negotiated, officials said Tuesday.

The request represents a big increase from the 940 million dollars disbursed under the 17th yen package committed last year, noted Carolina Guina, assistant director of the National Economic Development Authority.

Some 25 to 30 projects, mostly for infrastructure, are to be funded by the 18th yen loan.

Guina said an appraisal mission from the OECF was in the country to discuss the package.

She said, however, that the Japanese Government is awaiting the results of a program review by the International Monetary Fund before making any commitments related to the Official Development Assistance.

Foreign Secretary Says North Korea Ties Imminent

HK1401050392 Quezon City MALAYA in English 12 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus yesterday said there would be no more impediment to forging diplomatic relations with North Korea because of the socialist state's readiness to sign a nuclear inspection agreement among Southeast Asian nations.

"The developments in Korea are such that we seem to be moving closer to the goal that we set for ourselves earlier last year of establishing diplomatic relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," Manglapus said.

He added: "The announcement that North Korea seems to be ready to agree to nuclear inspection brings us closer to that goal and we feel that after the February meeting between North Korea and South Korea, and after the signing by North Korea of the inspection agreement, that there would be no more impediment to our establishing relations with North Korea."

North and South Korea are set to meet sometime on the third week of February.

After the meeting, Manglapus said, "There should be no more impediments to our establishing diplomatic ties."

Manglapus also said he forsees formal ties would be established by last week of February, at the earliest.

DPRK is among socialist nations Philippines intends to establish diplomatic ties with.

Manglapus said earlier the foreign office is sending a diplomatic mission to Cambodia to be headed by Undersecretary Pablo Suarez in preparation for the reestablishment of relations between the two countries.

De Villa Says Mindanao Situation 'Under Control'

HK1401021792 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 13 Jan 92 p 16

[By Ramoncito dela Cruz]

[Text] Despite the severe economic slowdown caused by the serious power shortage crisis currently being experienced in Mindanao, Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa expressed confidence the security situation in the island will stay "under control."

In a press conference conducted last Friday, Sec. de Villa said Southern Command (Southcom) chief Major Gen. Gumersindo Yap informed him that no major encounter or terrorist activity has been initiated by separatist insurgents.

"There is no unusual effort from any group of any direction to create a security problem," Sec. de Villa reported.

At present, three main contending separatist groups are operating in Mindanao—the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the MNLF-Reformist group.

Economic instability had been one of the major causes of civilian discontent and unrest which led to the bloody Muslim uprising in the early 1970s.

However, the military is not taking the existing situation sitting down as "we have foreseen that there may be mass actions to be staged by the different sectors of the community," Sec. de Villa added.

Optimistic

At the same time, he expressed optimism that the problem will be resolved immediately, "as (Executive) Secretary (Franklin) Drilon has been assigned by the President to personally handle the situation and I think he has made the necessary moves to alleviate the situation there."

He also discounted the possibility of a renewed Communist movement in the countryside as the leftist ideologues will try to exploit the present economic condition in order to regain support from the masses.

"We should look at this (the communist movement) from the overall perspective on what is happening to Communism all over the world. We have said time and again that Communism has been proven to be an unsuccessful system.

"We (the military) foresee the demise of (the) Communist movement in the country."

Sec. de Villa expressed confidence that the Governemnt can attain strategic control over the insurgents by the end of the year, "since the decline of the Communist movement in the Philippines is irreversible."

Reported Arms Landing Spreads Fears in Bicol

HK1401044792 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 13 Jan 92 p 1

[By Joey Caburnida]

[Excerpt] The reported landing of a huge cache of powerful weapons into Pasacao, a coastal town of Camarines Sur, which was allegedly engineered by a Bicol political warlord for his private army, has raised further the already tense political atmosphere in the region.

And fears are that if such landings continue unabated, Bicol would be in for bloody and violent elections in May as some politicians were reported strengthening their own private armies for the coming polls.

However, Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte denied to the Chronicle the reported arms landing, claiming it was part of a "black propaganda being spread by discredited politicians, especially those within the camp of former defense secretary Fidel Ramos."

Villafuerte was the campaign manager of Speaker Ramon Mitra who routed Ramos for the presidential race in the ruling Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) during the party's provincial conventions last Nov. 30.

Despite Villafuerte's denial, concerned sectors in Bicol warned if these private armies were not dismantled, the coming May elections would be violent and bloody. [passage omitted]

Authorities Identify Six Provinces as 'Critical'

HK1401032092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 14 Jan 92 p 6

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] Military and police authorities yesterday identified at least six provinces in the country as "critical" in the general elections in May because of the intense rivalry among political clans, the presence of their private armies and threats from other armed groups.

Two of these provinces are in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (Armm) where more than 60% of its cities and towns are considered to be "critical" and "sensitive" during the elections.

These provinces are Maguindanao and Sulu where warning clans, like the Loongs, Tans and the Tulawien have been fighting bitter political wars for supremacy.

For instance, the local elections in Sulu in 1988 was marred by mortar shellings from both opposing forces. It was only the armed forces which restored normalcy in the island-province.

The other "critical" provinces are in Luzon, like Masbate in the Bicol region; Nueva Ecija in central Luzon and Cagayan and Kalinga-Apayao in northern Luzon.

Surprisingly, central Luzon has the lowest level of critical areas with only 14 towns and cities included in the list of "hot spots" nationwide.

Police said these hot spots are apparently concentrated in Nueva Ecija which has claimed more than 20 lives during the last three years as rivalry among its political clans have become very intensed.

Similar situation prevails over Masbate where a congressman and a former governor had been assassinated during the last two years because of running feuds between two powerful political dynasties in the island-province.

The situation in Cagayan and Kalinga-Apayao were complicated because apart from private armies and vigilante groups, the New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas are also very active.

In fact, in areas where there are strong presence of NPA rebels, most of their cities and towns are listed under critical and sensitive areas.

The Cordilleras, which witnessed a series of rebel ambuscades that had claimed more than 50 soldiers during the last two to three months, have at least 34 towns considered as hot spots. This is roughly 45% of the region's 76 towns and cities.

A classic example is region 8 or the Samar-Leyte areas which accounted for the most number of critical and sensitive areas, 65 cities and towns.

The problem in the area is not the proliferation of private armies but the heavy presence of communist guerrillas. The region has 38 critical towns, the most in the country, and 27 towns listed as sensitive, the second most in the country.

Davao provinces, which also have perennial insurgency problem has a high 46% critical areas while the Muslim-dominated areas in Mindanao, regions 9 and 12, have their own share of critical and sensitive areas.

Region 9 which includes the Zamboanga peninsula has about 50% election hot spots while region 12, which include Cotabato areas have 51%.

Apart from communist rebels and private armies, these areas also have to deal with separatist guerrillas belonging to at least three warning factions.

These warring rebel factions also contribute to the violent election-related incidents because they openly support political leaders who are sympathetic to their cause.

Boom towns have lesser peace and order problems like Southern Tagalog and Cebu which have lower percentage of election hot spots. Cebu only has 17%, the third lowest, while region 4 or otherwise known as the Calabarzon [Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon] has 14%, the second lowest.

Central Luzon, which was devastated by Mount Pinatubo, expects fewer peace and order problems with only 11% of their cities and towns listed as hot spots. This is also the home region of President Aquino.

Aquino Orders Dismantling of Private Armies

HK1301130192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has ordered Philippine National Police [PNP] leaders to ensure the disbandment of private armies of known warlords [word as heard] before the 11 May 1992 elections. This directive was announced by President Aquino after meeting with Secretary Cesar Sarino of the Department of Interior and Local Government and PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno at Malacanang.

At the same time, the president also ordered the recall of policemen acting as bodyguards to several top government officials to their original positions in accordance with orders from the Commission on Elections [Comelec].

Sarino also announced the scheduled reshuffling of provincial and regional commanders who have been assigned for more than two years to a certain area. Sarino explained that deadlines will be set for dismantling private armies in every province, while the deadline for the reshuffling of military officials will be 29 January.

In related developments, a meeting was held between officials of the Comelec, PNP, and Armed Forces of the Philippines to solve possible problems that might arise from the implementation of the firearms ban. The meeting is in line with questions raised by several Metro Manila policemen on whether Comelec will give exemption to those not covered by the firearms ban. According to the policemen, the granting of exemptions and a total ban on firearms would only cause more confusion rather than lessen or prevent violence during the elections.

Military Against Disarming Troopers

HK1401113292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 14 Jan 92

[By Rodney Jaleco of DZRH Unit No. 1]

[Text] The military is against the disarming of 80,000 members of the Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Unit [CAFGU] in the coming elections; while General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, said that the 11 May elections would be peaceful in general despite threats from the New People's Army [NPA] and the 143 different private armies.

According to Abadia, the AFP are now preparing guidelines for the role that the military would play during the coming elections. This includes the formulation of safeguards against the possible use of the CAFGU in politics.

The military is against disarming CAFGU members because this places them in great danger from the NPA. Also, this may affect the anti-insurgency campaign at a time when they are so close to eradicating the threat of the communist insurgency.

Several high-ranking officials of the AFP also said that some members of the NPA have plans of running in the coming elections, while others plan to serve as bodyguards or assassins in areas wherein the NPA has no candidate to support. According to Abadia, they are more concerned with the possible steps which the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA is going to take rather than the threat posed by the private armies. However, Abadia said that the AFP are more than willing to help the Philippine National Police in dismantling the more powerful private armies, especially those in Mindanao, where, according to some field commanders, private armies are armed with some of the latest firearms like machineguns and antitank rockets.

Thailand

Government Denies Offer To Host U.S. Forces

BK1401012392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Thailand denies that Bangkok has offered to host United States military forces as claimed by Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus.

"As far as we are concerned, Thailand agrees to refuelling, and rest and recreation—period. There is no question about our position," said a high-ranking government official when asked to comment on the AFP report.

Manglapus was quoted as saying yesterday that Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand had offered to host some of the US forces required to vacate Subic Naval Base in the Philippines this year.

But the Thai official noted that "sometimes Secetary Manglapus does not receive accurate information."

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin last week also ruled out the possibility of Thailand hosting US military bases.

Manglapus told reporters in the northern town of San Fernando that he found it interesting that while "we are phasing out the Americans, the other countries in Southeast Asia are phasing them in."

President Corazon Aquino last month asked Washington to remove its troops and facilities from Subic, the main repair and supply yard of the US 7th Fleet, after the Philippine senate rejected a new 10-year base treaty with the United States.

Singapore subsequently announced that a naval logistics support force based at Subic would be relocated to the city-state.

Manglapus claimed Bangkok had been offering to host the US facilities in a bid to restore the "level of US military presence that used to be in Thailand."

Washington was seriously considering Kuala Lumpur's offer, he said without elaborating. He gave no details on Jakarta's supposed bid to host the facilities.

Official on Urgent Need for Patent Bill

BK1401020992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jan 92 p 6

[Text] The Patents Bill will go before the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] for its third reading next month, scrutinising committee spokesman Chirayut Wasurat said yesterday.

The bill is opposed by academics and medical students who describe it as an unfair concession to pressure from the United States.

Speaking after a committee meeting on the bill, Mr Chirayut said the committee has finished with the bill and will allow NLA members looking to amend the draft to raise their matters for consideration on Thursday.

After final amendments, if any, the bill will be forwarded to the NLA for its final reading next month, he said.

Explaining the need for a law to protect patent rights to be passed as soon as possible, Mr Chirayut said the bill is not intended to serve political interests in the United States but to solve a problem of trade deficits.

The United States has threatened to use Section 301 of the US Trade Act against countries violating the patent rights.

Responding to fears that prices of pharmaceuticals will rise after the bill is passed, Mr Chirayut said that within five to eight years the prices of some drugs may increase because of patent rights.

But exports are more important and, without the bill, there would be a possible loss of export markets in the US, Europe and Japan, which take about 70 per cent of all Thai exports.

Under the bill, patent right protection will not be retroactive.

Pharmaceutical factories can continue to make copied products now being manufactured and there is no reason for drug prices to go up.

If the prices of new protected products are too expensive, the protection may be withdrawn and other manufacturers will be allowed to produce or import the products instead.

The law will also require producers to reveal the capital costs, he said.

The committee believes the patent life should remain 20 years and the grace period 180 days as originally drafted.

The committee has not made any change to the original draft of the bill despite calls for amendment by many groups, sources said.

A group of six academics—Prayun Chieowatthana of the Thai-Japanese Technological Promotion Association, Thirasak Worasuntharothok, a retired government official, Dr San Hatthirat of Ramathibodi Hospital and Dr Surakiat Sathirathai, Loesan Thanasukan and Ms Chiraphon Limpananon of Chulalongkon University met the committee yesterday and urged it to amend the draft.

The academics wanted the grace period before the law is fully implemented to be extended from 180 days to at least five years, claiming that under a draft agreement of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) every country is to be given a one-year grace period which may be extended to five years in developing countries.

They alleged that the Commerce Ministry has misquoted a GATT document in a way to say that if by 1993 Thailand does not amend the 1979 Patent Law it will be forced to give patent right protection retroactively for 20 years.

In fact, the document states differently, they said.

One of the academics quoted committee chairman Phichai Watsanasong as saying he would query the Commerce Ministry about the document.

During the meeting, the academics also proposed the setting up of a drug patent committee to prevent unreasonable increases in the prices of pharmaceuticals, claiming the Government has no effective measures to control the prices.

SRV Refuses To Sign Fishing Cooperation Pact

BK1401002392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jan 92 p B1

[Text] Vietnam's refusal to sign a fishery cooperation pact with Thailand has threatened to cause a strain in bilateral relations which are on the brink of entering a new era of friendship and trust with the Thai premier's visit this week.

In a gesture of dissatisfaction, Agriculture Minister Anat Aphaphirom yesterday called off his plans to accompany the prime minister to Hanoi, according to Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon. The planned signing of an agricultural cooperation accord was also cancelled.

At held consultations yesterday with Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin at the Foreign Ministry to consider Vietnam's unexpected decision.

Hanoi informed the Thai Ambassador to Vietnam on Saturday that it was not ready to sign the accord during Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's Jan 15-17 trip despite the fact that a preliminary agreement on fishery cooperation was initialled by Thai and Vietnamese ministers last week.

At himself represented Thailand when he and Wichian Watthanakhun, deputy foreign minister, led an advance mission to Vietnam on Jan 8-9 to prepare for the premier's visit.

Sources said Hanoi failed to provide details on why it asked for the signing's postponement when officials called on Thai Ambassador to Vietnam Suraphong Chaiyanam on Jan 11 to inform him of the decision. Only a brief explanation was given, they said.

But the sources felt that the unresolved issue of overlapping territorial waters, which derailed the planned signing of the agreement when Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet visited Bangkok last October, was the main reason.

Initially, both countries agreed to put aside the territorial dispute for the time being to allow negotiations on fishing cooperation to proceed. Talks on the disputed area were to be addressed separately from the fishery pact as the two sides agreed to meet in April to discuss the sensitive issue. At told reporters after meeting with Asa yesterday afternoon that Vietnam wanted more time to consult with local authorities in the southern provinces, where Thai fishermen are to operate under the planned accord.

The preliminary agreement was initialled without prior consultations with local authorities, At was told. He added that this might cause difficulties in the future because the central government has little influence over the provinces.

The sources said postponing the signing just before Anan's departure for Hanoi served to play down the significance of the official visit, to which Thai officials have attached great importance.

Anan will be the first Thai premier to visit that country since the invasion of Cambodia in 1979.

At said he appreciated Vietnam's past enthusiasm for forging closer economic ties with Thailand, but was disappointed to learn about the decision to postpone the official signing of the fishery pact.

The minister remained hopeful that once Vietnam settles its internal administrative problems, the signing will take place.

He added that the Agriculture Ministry will still ask the Cabinet today to endorse the fishery pact and the agricultural cooperation agreement, both of which were initialled during the advance mission's trip to Vietnam last week.

Without a fishery cooperation accord, Prime Minister Anan is expected to sign only two separate agreements on economic cooperation and trade as well as a communique on Thai-Vietnamese relations.

Wichan Sirichai-ekawat, a senior member of the Thai Overseas Fisheries Association who was instrumental in the establishment of a central company with Vietnam's Sowes Food Co, said the industry wanted the ministers in charge of fishery to explain their failure to get the accord signed this time.

He also stated that the investment conditions under the prelimianry fishery agreement which At signed last week were inadequate and incomplete. Still, he said the fishing industry viewed the agreement as an assurance for Thai companies wishing to fish in Vietnamese waters.

Wichan accused Vietnam of insincerity for reasoning that it had to consult local administrations on the pact before the official signing could take place.

The executive, who represented the industry in signing a joint venture agreement with Vietnam's fishing state enterprise, added that officials from three southern provinces in Vietnam called on Thai Foreign Ministry officials on Jan 3 to assess progress on the accord.

Under the proposed fishery cooperation pact, Thai companies wishing to fish in Vietnamese waters have to register with the central company formed by Thai-Vietnam Fisheries Co and Sowes Food Co.

The proposal also allows exportation of part of the catch to Bangkok for processing. Veitnam initially wanted the entire catch to be processed in the country to add value to its exports.

At first, both sides hoped the agreement would take effect by the first quarter of this year.

Premier Anan's Vietnam Trip Previewed

BK1401024592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jan 92 p 4

[By Supaphon Kanwirayothin]

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's three-day visit to Vietnam beginning tomorrow will cap a series of Thailand's efforts to strengthen bilateral relations with Hanoi.

Mr Anan will be the first Thai prime minister to visit Vietnam since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1975.

Yet what was planned as a major achievement for his trip—the signing of an agreement on fisheries cooperation—failed as Vietnam sprang a last-minute surprise on Saturday by requesting that the signing of the pact be postponed.

Officials involved in the negotiations described events surrounding the fishery issue as "very sensitive" for both Vietnam and Thailand. They declined to elaborate.

Last Wednesday, Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon, who was with Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun advance mission to prepare for the Premier's trip, initialled the agreement on fisheries cooperation with Vietnamese Vice Minister for Marine Products Huynh Cong Hoa.

Over the weekend, however, word came over to Bangkok that Vietnam had requested that the signing be postponed.

Under the plan, the initialled agreement would be signed by Agriculture Minister Anat Aphaphirom and his Vietnamese counterpart. Dr Anat, who was scheduled to travel to Vietnam with the Prime Minister, announced yesterday that there is no need for him to go now.

Thailand has been attempting to convince Vietnam that the agreement would best serve the interests of both sides, and resolve once and for all the problem of Thai vessels trespassing on Vietnamese waters. At the same time, the agreement would give Vietnam the opportunity, capital and resources to modernise and strengthen its fishery industry.

After much hesitation which has dragged on since Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin's visit to Vietnam last September, Vietnam's Council of Ministers approved the draft agreement, which resulted in the documents being initialled by the two deputy ministers last Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, in the course of his stay in Vietnam, sought to finalise the draft, but Vietnam asked for more time to study it, and finally came up with a counter-proposal.

The draft initialled by Dr At and Dr Hoa was the one thrashed out at the Joint Economic Commission's meeting in October 17-18 last year. Vietnam's Council of Ministers later approved the documents, and it was confirmed during Armed Forces Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's visit to Vietnam earlier this month that it would be ready for signing.

A high-ranking Thai official involved in the negotiations said Vietnam's last-minute change of heart might have stemmed from two reasons.

Firstly, the deal had been negotiated and finally agreed upon by Thai negotiators and representatives from the central authorities in Hanoi with no participation from local authorities in the provincial or district locations where fishing activities actually take place. This constitutes a domestic problem which the central authorities in Hanoi cannot settle.

"The local authorities have the right to say yes or no," one senior Vietnamese government official said recently.

Secondly, Vietnam remains wary of Thailand's motive in pushing for the conclusion of this agreement. Although Thai officials insist that the agreement will bring about mutual and equal benefits to both signatories, Vietnam could well be suspicious that the pact would favour Thailand more than Vietnam.

This latest and unexpected development lurking in the scene has caught Thailand off guard.

"Obviously something has gone wrong. We will have to hear from our Vietnamese friends (during Prime Minister Anan's visit)," said another official.

If the first prognosis about the differences between Hanoi and the southern coastal provinces is indeed the point, there is little that Prime Minister Anan can do during his visit to remedy the situation.

But if the second scenario was the case, the Prime Minister will then have to exercise his power of persuasion to bridge the differences.

The hitch, which came shortly before the Prime Minister's visit, indicated that a new era of Thai-Vietnamese relations is not embarking on a simple path.

With the help of regional and international factors, together with the Anan administration's pragmatic view to seize the opportunity, Thai-Vietnamese ties have taken a swift turn for the better since the latter half of last year. Several points of suspicions, especially in the fields of politics and security, have been cleared or laid to rest, paving the way for the two Southeast Asian neighbours to press ahead with their common objective of economic development.

Prime Minister Anan's visit is in response to Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet's invitation made during the latter's visit to Thailand or October 28-30 last year. Since then one major event has taken place. Gen Suchinda Khraprayun led a group of senior Thai military officers on a three-day visit to Vietnam earlier this month.

Despite the culture shock brought about by Gen Suchinda's surprise remarks which startled the Vietnamese military leadership, notably his suggestion that Cam Ranh Bay be leased to the US, analysts agreed that the visit by the Thai generals is a landmark event in its own way.

The two armies, equally powerful institutions in their respective countries, have moved to establish a dialogue which they hoped to carry on in the future. Gen Suchinda emphatically told Vietnamese leaders that Thailand is keen on joining hands with Vietnam in economic development.

And Vietnam is in for a big change in the style and content of Thai leaders. While Gen Suchinda may have ruffled the feathers of orthodox Vietnamese leaders, Prime Minister Anan will get straight down to the nitty-gritty of business deals.

As a gesture of goodwill, the prime minister will announce Thailand's offer of 100 million baht worth of trade credits for Vietnam to purchase goods it needs. Details will be worked out in the course of the delegation's visit.

In the broader context, Prime Minister Anan will be the first ASEAN leader to visit Vietnam, and the trip precedes the meeting of ASEAN heads of government in Singapore later this month, when ASEAN will officiate the accession of Vietnam and Laos to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.

Vietnam wants to get rid of the US trade and investment embargo, which hangs like an albatross on its neck. Prime Minister Anan will be asked to persuade the US to relent.

With the stunning development in the fishery issue which Thailand deems a top priority, a lot of hard work is needed on both sides to improve bilateral relations.

Burmese Stop Loggers During Fighting

BK1401020392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jan 92 p 6

[Text] Tak—Burmese authorities have ordered Thai firms with logging concessions in areas opposite Phop Phra and Umphang districts to cease operations temporarily owing to fighting between government soldiers and ethnic rebels.

Several Thai companies quoted Burmese officials as saying that fighting between the army and Karen National Union [KNU] rebels was expected to escalate over the next few weeks which would jeopardise logging operations and endanger personnel.

Burmese officials told the Thai firms that they feared for the safety of Thai workers as the fighting is expected to be particularly bloody.

The Burmese officials allegedly told the Thai firms that logging would be allowed to resume once the government forces had "bought the situation under control."

The order was issued to Thai logging firms last Friday.

At present two Thai companies—the Muang Pana Co., Ltd, and the Zina company—have logging concessions in the areas affected.

Over the past few days government forces have ordered Thai logging firms to allow them to use their trucks to transport supplies, according to official Thai sources.

Border Patrol Police sources said several companies of government soldiers had reinforced about 1,500 troops and porters from Ting Kanyinoung camp and Kyain Seik Kyi camp for an attack on the KNU strong-hold opposite Umphang District.

Over 100 army convoys transporting troops, porters, arms and ammunition had been counted travelling from Ting Kanyinoung to the battle zone which is about 12 kilometres from Thai-Burmese, sources said.

Meeting Held on Cambodian Border Security

BK1401072192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Interior Ministry is making preparations to prevent narcotics and gun smuggling problems as well as to accelerate development of the Cambodian border provinces. Chaiwat Hutacharoen, the Interior Ministry deputy permanent secretary for security affairs, disclosed after a meeting on security problems with the governors of the seven provinces bordering Cambodia that the anticipated peace in Cambodia following the signing of the peace agreement by the four Cambodian factions will bring to Thailand the problem of the smuggling of war weaponry, banditry by Cambodian nationals, and narcotics. These problems already exist on a small scale. For this reason, the interior minister has instructed the offices concerned to undertake preventative action by accelerating the development of border villages and the people's quality of life, as well as the suppression of war weapons. Chaiwat said border crossing points have been opened on a temporary basis in compliance with government policy. The crossing points will be closed immediately if war weapons are smuggled through them.

[Begin Chaiwat recording] Border crossing points have been opened on a temporary basis in compliance with government policy, which gives the provincial administration authority to make a decision based on national security, good relations, and an emphasis on effective prevention of the smuggling of war weaponry. If the border crossing points, which are opened for trade purposes, result in the smuggling of war weapons or narcotics the points involved will be closed immediately. [end recording]

Khmer Repatriation May Begin in 3 Months

BK1301135192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The director of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] has said that safety, not political problems in Cambodia, is the major obstacle to repatriation of Cambodian refugees. At the Foreign Ministry today, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin received UNHCR director Sadako Ogata, who consulted the Thai Government on repatriation of Cambodian refugees. Ogata told Thai reporters that the repatriation could begin in two or three months and noted that the Thai Government has agreed to provide all forms of assistance, including defusing landmines for the safety of refugees. She said she will also visit Cambodia to observe the situation there.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister informed reporters that the Thai Government has agreed to clear the Cambodian border of landmines before the repatriation of refugees. He said the United Nations has asked Thailand to dispatch 700-800 soldiers to Cambodia. The UN request will be made in letter after participation of the Thai delegation in the upcoming meeting in New York.

[Begin recording] [Asa in progress] In April, an attempt will be made to begin repatriation of Cambodian refugees.

[Unidentified correspondent] How many refugees will be repatriated in the first batch?

[Asa] I do not know a definite number yet. I only know that if possible, the first repatriation attempt will be made in April. Many steps are involved, such as the establishment of six centers in Cambodia, four of which were already completed. It is expected that all six centers will be completed by the end of March. [end recording]

The foreign minister also noted that in addition to repatriation of refugees, Thailand has also assisted in repairing the Poipet-Sisophon highway. A report on the survey of the highway will be submitted on 14 January. The repair is expected to be completed in three months.

Army Due for 'Major' Cambodian Mineclearing Role

BK1401022792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jan 92 p A1

[Text] Thailand will play a major role in clearing Cambodia of mines by sending 700-800 army personnel to join the UN-controlled operation in preparation for the repatriation of 350,000 Cambodian refugees.

The Thai field engineers battalion will enter the war-ravaged nation as part of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), wearing full UN uniforms and receiving UN benefits.

The announcement was made yesterday by Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin after meeting the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata who is here on a four-day official tour to Khmer Border encampments on Thai soil. She will travel on Thursday to Cambodia to visit reception centres for the returnees and for talks with Camnbodian authorities.

"We (Thailand) have agreed to clear all the mines (in Cambodia). The Thai military will play a major role in the mine-sweeping operation along the (Thai-Cambodia) borderline so that the refugees can be repatriated safely home," said Asa. He added that the United Nations has asked for about 700-800 personnel from Thailand.

The Thai military has yet to appoint the chief of its battalion, but an informed army source said the person will bear the rank of not lower than a colonel. The Thai contingent would come under the direct command of the UNAMIC military chief Brig Gen Michel Loridon, said the source.

As well as the personnel, who will be mainly army engineers, Thailand will also send nine sniffer dog and 15 police dog-handlers.

Asa stressed that the Thai government is sending the mine-clearing battalion to Cambodia at the request of the United Nations. Last week the UN Security Council approved the dispatch of a 1,000-member team to Cambodia to begin large-scale mine-sweeping and agreed to provide about US$24 million for the programme.

The Thai army personnel are to clear the main repatriation routes for the refugees near the Thai border, with priority going to the 48-km highway Route No. 5 between Poipet on the Thai border and Sisophon in northwestern Cambodia which will be the prime thoroughfare for the returnees and UN supplies into the country.

The Thai governmnt last year approved a Bt70 million budget to repair the road. The Thai army is expected to complete the work by April when the first contingent of Cambodian refugees is to be repatriated before the start of the rainy season, according to Asa. Repair of the road could begin after the meeting today to finalize the final field report on the route, he added.

The Thai foreign minister said the Thai battalion wil be recruited from various units and departments. They will form part of the Thai government's participation in the UN operation, he added.

About four milllion mines, which are the main threat to the repatriation and safety of the Cambodian people, are estimated to have been planted along the Thai-Cambodian frontier during the 13 years of war between the Vietnam installed government in Phnom Penh and its foes in the tripartite resistance. About 500 people are maimed or killed each month by stepping on the mines, especially in the border area. In the past Thai specialists in mine clearing have been asked to go to Afghanistan to help carry out the same type of work there.

Asa said a Thai military delegation will travel soon to the United Nations in New York where it will hold detailed discussions on the mine-sweeping operation. Informed sources said the Thai unit could start work this month and its members would become UNAMIC members, wear full UN uniforms and receive UN Salaries.

Thailand, said Asa, will fully cooperate with the UNHCR in the repatriation programme and will try to have the first batch of refugees return to the country in April. However, he could say how many people would be repatriated at that time.

The UNHCR has completed the construction of one out of six reception centres in northwestern Cambodia and the rest will be finished by end of March, he said.

Speaking after meeting Asa, Ogata said the main aims of her trip here were to get the whole repatriation process off the ground and to find out what was urgently required for this.

The trip here, she said, also allowed her consultations with the Thai government and to make sure that both sides "are able to cooperate fully."

Ogata also held talks yesterday with Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. Today she will visit Khmer Rouge-controlled Site 8 and non-communist-controlled Site 2, which houses the largest concentration of Cambodians outside their country, in Prachin Buri province.

Tomorrow she will visit Site B in Surin province, and will hold separate meetings in the afternoon with Lord Caithness, the UK Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and ambassadors of donor countries.

NLA President Amends Statement on Election

BK1401013792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] National Legislative Assembly [NLA] president Ukrit Mongkhonnawin insists the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] will cease to exist after election day—but adds that it will continue its "caretaker duties" until the next government is sworn in.

Dr Ukrit expanded on his earlier statement that the NPKC would cease to exist at midnight on March 22—election day—after NPKC vice chairman Gen Suchinda Khraprayun dismissed it by saying this could not be so because a new government would have not been formed by that time.

Asked about Gen Suchinda's response, the NLA president said he and the Army Commander-in-Chief "understood the problem the same way."

Dr Ukrit said the status of the NPKC and the Anan Panyarachun Government were legally tied together.

According to the new Constitution, after election day the status of the NPKC and the Anan Government will be terminated.

But the interim Constitution also states that the interim government (the Anan administration) will have to stay on as caretaker until a new government is formed.

"Articles 18 and 20 of the interim charter state that the status of the NPKC will be terminated at the same time the status of the government it appointed is terminated.

"Since the Anan government will stay on as caretaker, the NPKC also has to stay on as caretaker," Dr Ukrit said.

Both the Anan government and the NPKC will stay on for "caretaker duties" until the new Cabinet is formed. During this time they should not undertake any important policies.

When the new Cabinet formally takes its oath to His Majesty the King, both the Anan government and the NPKC will have completed all their duties, Dr Ukrit said.

Meanwhile, Samakkhi Tham Party spokesman Suchat Tancharoen said he agreed with Dr Ukrit and ACM Suthep Theppharak that the NPKC should dissolve after midnight on March 22 and leave formation of the government to elected MPs.

Democratic practice would also have it that the nomination of the prime minister and the countersigning of His Majesty the King's appointment of the premier would be the task of the House Speaker.

This issue should be clearly resolved so people are not confused.

Mr Suchat said the NPKC in staging the coup d'etat last February 23 claimed politicians had bought votes to get into power and engage in corruption.

"The NPKC and the appointed government have painted a dirty and ugly picture of politicians.

"But until now they cannot prove that it's true. At the same time there is silence on official corruption. No one is finding any effective measures for that," Mr Suchat said.

Prime Minister on Post-Election Status

BK1401072092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] The prime minister has said that after the 22 March general election, the present government will assume the role of a caretaker government and will not issue any new policies. Before attending a Cabinet meeting at Government House this morning, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun made the following statement to reporters:

[Begin recording] In accordance with traditional political practice, after the general elections have been held, the government under my leadership will become a caretaker government. This means that after 22 March this year, in line with political tradition and as an act of legitimacy my government will not issue any policy or implement any measure that will directly affect the people or the country. It will act as a caretaker government that will perform its duties until a royal command appointing a new cabinet is issued. [end recoding]

Paper on Selection of New Senators

BK1401031592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jan 92 p A8

[Editorial: "Patronage Power in the Selection of New Senators"]

[Text] Much public attention is being given to politicians switching parties and jockeying for position in their hectic preparation for the Mar 22 general election. But little has been heard of senator-aspirants vying frantically to attract the attention of national Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman ex-Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and other NPKC military leaders.

Sunthon must choose 270 nominees for royal appointment to the Senate on Mar 22. And already he is inundated with thousands of letters of recommendation extolling the virtues and achievements of the aspirants, many of whom are members of the present National Assembly.

However, Sunthon's discretion over the selection of senate nominees seems rather limited. For a large part of the 270 Senate seats will be filled under a de facto quota system.

The largest number of seats goes to the Army. The Navy and the Air Force will have just about the same number; the Supreme Command, the police and the civilian government bureaucracy will each have a few seats. Together they will form a large majority in the new Senate, like they do now in the interim legislature.

The Anan administration has no part in the selection, but several of its Cabinet members will likely be appointed to the new Senate, perhaps as a reward for their service on the interim government.

This leaves just a small number of Senate seats up for grabs by aspirants who are outside all the above categories. This is where the letters of recommendation come into play and various lobbying efforts are directed. And this is also where some politicians, critical of the NPKC, charge could be a potential source of bribery.

In the past, when the selection was under the purview of the prime minister, some wealthy people were known to have "contributed" hefty amounts to senior politicians and government parties after they were appointed to the Senate. During the Chatchai administration, every party in the ruling coalition received a quota of seats in the Senate for dispensing at its own discretion. Under this patronage system personal integrity and potential ability and enthusiasm to contribute to parliamentary politics were not what those politicians in power looked for when they filled their quota of seats in the Senate. Consequently, virtually every Senate in the recent past was nothing more than a ceremonial rubber stamp.

Under the new Constitution, the Senate will have formidable powers during the four-year transition period; the senators can take part in censuring and votes of no-confidence against a prime minister and Cabinet, and withhold approval to any emergency decree of the government administration. A prime minister will have to either resign or dissolve the House and call a general election if an emergency decree is rejected in Parliament.

Theoretically, Sunthon and the NPKC can create a new Senate which serves as a political tool for the military leaders to control elected politicians after the NPKC is dissolved when the new Cabinet takes office. This is something to be expected since Sunthon has already made clear he intends to fill the new Senate with a majority of military officers and bureaucrats.

Sunthon resents the politicians' sneering about wealthy people lobbying and bribing him for the senatorship. He asserts that he "cannot be bought" and that only highly-qualified people will be nominated under his direct discretion.

This we shall see on Mar 22. But don't be surprised when the same old faces reappear in the new Senate. And as long as patronage power is used in the selection of senators, instead of an election or a merit system, we cannot count on these appointed senators to help Thailand develop parliamentary democracy.

Vietnam

Ambassador to UN Refutes U.S. POW Rumors

BK1401070592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 5 Jan 92

[Report on an interview with Trinh Xuan Lang, Vietnam's ambassador to the UN, by unidentified American reporter—place and date not given]

[Text] In response to reports and rumors saying that during the war Vietnam sent a number of American POW's to the Soviet Union, the Vietnamese ambassador to the United Nations, Trinh Xuan Lang, said: These reports and rumors are really fabrications aimed at misleading public opinion because within three months of the signing of the Paris agreement in January 1973—that is, by March 1973—Vietnam had already handed over all its POW's to the U.S. side.

When asked about the role of the former Soviet Union concerning POW's in Vietnam, Trinh Xuan Lang said:

[Begin video recording] [Trinh Xuan Lang, in English fading into Vietnamese translation] I think that we are completely independent in this matter and are not influenced by any foreign force. This is a matter directly related to us. The Soviet Union of course helped us a lot, but as you know, we are a sovereign country.

[Reporter] Would you please let us know whether any American POW's were sent to the Soviet Union during the war?

[Trinh] Absolutely none. U.S. congressmen have also had to admit that as yet they have not received any evidence of American POW's being sent to the Soviet Union. These reports should be investigated and thoroughly checked.

[Reporter] So, these reports have proved to be untrue. An investigation should have been conducted a long time ago. I can not understand why we did not do it. [end recording]

'Fabricated Statements' on U.S. POW's Denounced

BK1401042592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Article by Thanh Hai: "Fabricated Statements With Evil Designs"]

[Text] Following the case of the doctored photos of three missing U.S. soldiers allegedly still living in Southeast Asia, which stirred up U.S. public opinion for several months and was finally proved to be a total hoax by the U.S. press and professional photograph analysts themselves—including the chairman of the International Association of Photographers—the U.S. public is now faced with a sensational statement: The VOA and some major newspapers and foreign news agencies reported that on 2 January 1992, Mr. Kalugin, a former KGB official, told the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS that KGB personnel had interrogated three U.S. POW's in Hanoi in 1978 and that many Americans might have been detained in Vietnam for a long period, after Vietnam had said that all the POW's had been returned to the United States.

Foreign new agencies and VOA have claimed that Kalugin's statement has caused an uproar in U.S. public opinion by resurrecting the story about American POW's either living or being detained in Vietnam. The NEW YORK DAILY NEWS reported that the representatives of the U.S. State Department met with the U.S. Senate committee members in the past few days to discuss the clarification of the fate of American POW's and MIA's. However, as before, this news about American POW's in Vietnam has been rejected by broad segments of public opinion inside and outside the United States.

According to reports from Moscow, on 9 January, during a meeting with large numbers of foreign journalists, Mr. Nechi Porenko, a former KGB employee said officially that he alone and not Kalugin participated personally in a unique interview with U.S. POW's and this interview took place in January 1973 and not 1978, when U.S. troops were still in Vietnam.

TASS remarked that with more than 2,000 U.S. soldiers considered missing in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, sensational reports on U.S. soldiers allegedly still living in Vietnam and Southeast Asia have now and then appeared in the United States and other foreign countries. However, as yet, no one can show evidence of Americans forced to stay in these countries after the ending of U.S. intervention.

Following the case of the doctored photo of three American soldiers allegedly still living in Vietnam, President Bush himself and U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney in August 1991 had to admit that there was no evidence of MIA U.S. soldiers still living in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. They also condemned those who are raising false hope for the families of missing U.S. soldiers.

Following Kalugin's 2 January statement, the German newspaper STADE on 7 January carried an article under the rubric "Anti-Vietnam Kalugin, a Very Subtle Activity in the United States." The article says: For the U.S. ruling circles, which are preparing for the presidential electoral campaign, Vietnam is not only a foreign policy issue, but is also an ever-exploitable domestic policy issue of the United States itself.

While the U.S. president is at the preparatory stage of the 1992 presidential election campaign, Kalugin has seen that the U.S. authorities are appearing to lean toward the direction of taking another step further in normalizing relations with Vietnam. In order to avoid isolation, while nearly all allied countries have normalized their relations with Vietnam, the press and other mass media have diffused sensational news about the so-called evidence of U.S. POW's still living in Vietnam. The FRG STADE concluded that Kalugin has disclosed more sensational news in order to turn Vietnam into a United States domestic policy issue in its presidential elections and to make U.S. authorities postpone the process of normalizing U.S.-Vietnam relations, at least until after the elections. If so, it is however certainly too late, and then the Vietnam cake is divided up for all countries in the world except the United States.

The Vietnam News Agency was also authorized by our state to issue a statement rejecting this fabrication about U.S. soldiers allegedly still living in Vietnam. It clearly stated: The constant repetition of Kalugin-type statements is a typical act of those who want to exploit the sufferings of the American people to serve their dark, personal, evil schemes. VNA asserted: Following the signing of the Paris agreement in 1973, the Vietnamese Government has handed over to the U.S. Government all the American POW's captured during the war.

Government To Send Delegation to CIS

BK1301160192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0950 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Hanol, Jan 13 (AFP) - Vietnam will soon send a delegation to the new Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), formed last month by former republics of Hanoi's long-time ally the Soviet Union, a government spokesman said Monday.

The group's aim is to "learn about the situation (in the CIS), establish diplomatic relations and pursue existing economic and cultural links" with the republics of the new commonwealth, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He gave no further details of the first official mission, which will be the first from Vietnam to the former Soviet Union since its dissolution last month.

Diplomatic sources said Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien was to lead the delegation.

Hanoi last month recognized the CIS states and said it was ready to establish diplomatic relations with them. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said Vietnam would maintain and develop its decades-old ties with the former Soviet republics.

From 1954, Moscow was Hanoi's principal military, economic and political benefactor. That relationship ended in 1990 amid domestic upheaval that ultimately caused the Soviet Union to collapse.

The Vietnamese leadership has reaffirmed that the country remains committed to socialism despite the disintegration of the former communist superpower.

Mines Removed Along Chinese Border in Lao Cai

BK1101040892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The military command of Lao Cai Province was charged by the 2d Military Region headquarters and the provincial people's committee with the task of removing mines along the Sino-Vietnamese border in the province.

Although the command was recently relocated and its food and lodging facilities have not been stabilized, the party committee and the provincial military command asserted that this was a central and unexpected task and therefore expeditiously sent cadres out to survey the terrain, collect maps of minefields and plan for cooperating with the engineer units of B-16 and C-43 groups and the provincial border defense force to unify their plan for organizing and implementing the task.

From 1 to 28 November, units participating in the mine removing drive in Sao Do bridge, Chin Ten, Muong Khuong and Ho Kieu bridge areas and the former Lao Cai city, removed 196 assorted mines, collected 316 spike booby traps, and liberated 43.5 ha of land and roads, thus promptly helping open various border checkpoints.

In the course of mine clearing operations, the units firmly grasped all the techniques, closely organized the task and thus ensured safety and maintained good cooperative relations among units and the local party committee, administration, and people.

Iraqi Diplomat Hosts Reception for Army Leaders

BK1101071392 Hanoi VNA in English 0619 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 11—Iraqi Charge d'Affaires A.I. [ad interim] Ahmed al-Azawi gave a reception here yesterday evening in honour of his country's 71st army day. His Vietnamese guests included Senior- Lieut. Gen. Tran Van Quang, vice defence minister. Members of the diplomatic corps were present. Charge d'Affaires A.I. Ahmed al-Azawi and Senior-Lieut. Gen. Tran Van Quang raised toasts to the further consolidation and development of the friendship bwetween the two peoples and the two armies.

Party Leaders Receive French Delegation

BK1201080292 Hanoi VNA in English 0635 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 12—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received here yesterday the visiting delegation of the Commission for External Relations of the French National Assembly led by its chairman Michel Vauzelle.

The delegation, comprising MPs [member's of parliament] from the Socialist Party, the French Comminist Party and the Rally for the Republic Party as well as members of the French National Assembly's Commission for External Relations, arrived in Hanoi Thursday for a visit at the invitation of the Vietnam National Assembly's Commission for External Relations.

Also present was Phan Quang, vice chairman of the National Assembly's Commission for External Relations and others.

On behalf of the French delegation, Mr. Michel Vauzelle expressed his joy at his visit to Vietnam, during which he had witnessed good changes brought about in all fields by the current renovation on Vietnam.

He also expressed his admiration for the Vietnamese people's aged-old culture as well as their heroism displayed in the struggle for the defence of freedom and national independence, and their dynamism, and creativeness in productive labour. He also affirmed that the French National Assembly, government and people wish to expand and strengthen their friendship, and cooperation with Vietnam.

For his party, General Secretary Do Muoi sincerely thanked the French National Assembly, government and people for their precious assistance to the Vietnamese people and welcomed France's goodwill in promoting its cooperation with Vietnam in the economic, cultural, scientific, technical fields.

He pointed out: "Vietnam hopes that the friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened and expanded, and will create favourable conditions for French businessmen to step up their investment in Vietnam and step up the exchange of experiences and cooperation between the two sides so as to promote the mutual understanding, thus contributing to further strengthening the existing friendship between the two countries."

French Official Holds Briefing

BK1101153092 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 11—Mr. Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the French National Assembly, held a press conference here this eveing on the current visit to Vietnam by the commission's delegation.

Mr. Michel Vauzelle told Vietnamese and foreign pressmen that while in Vietnam he held talks with Mr. Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly, on the strengthening of the France-Vietnam relations. He also held talks with Ta Ca, deputy minister of Commerce and Tourism and Nguyen Van Hieu, director of the Vietnam Institute of Science, on measures to further promote bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism and science.

This afternoon, the French parliamentarian had a working session with Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Committee for Investment and Cooperation, he pledged when back to Paris he would do his utmost to strengthen the Vietnamese-French cooperation.

French Ambassador Claude Blanchemaison was present at the press conference.

The French delegation will also visit Hue and Ho Chi Minh City.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Condolences From Cambodia

BK1101152292 Hanoi VNA in English 1504 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 11—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet has received a message of sympathy from his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen over the losses in lives and property caused by the recent tornado in the central Vietnam provinces of Quang Ngai and Quang Nam-Da Nang.

PRC Provincial Delegation Visits Haiphong

BK1301145192 Hanoi VNA in English 1427 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 13—A delegation of Guangxi Province led by Cheng Ke Jie, chairman of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China, paid a visit to the port city of Haiphong on Jan. 11 and 12.

It was accompanied by an economic delegation of the Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The Chinese guests toured a number of factories and met a delegation of the host city. The two sides discussed possibilities of cooperation and joint venture in the production of motor cars, confectionary, tooth paste, textiles, plastics and enamel ware. They also discussed plans for cooperation in culture, information, broadcasting, television and tourism.

Nguyen Co Thach on Refining Oil in Malaysia

BK1301163392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 13 (AFP)—Vietnam is now negotiating to have its crude oil refined in Malaysia, former Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said Monday.

Thach said a delegation from Petroliam Nasional Bhd., Malaysia's national oil corporation, was in Vietnam late last year to discuss the possibility of having Vietnamese crude oil refined here.

"We are following up with Kuala Lumpur on this because we know Malaysia has ample oil refinining capacity," Thach told reporters after attending the opening of a three-day Japan-Southeast Asia conference.

Vietnam, although rich in oil, has no refinery and currently sends its crude oil to Singapore for refining.

Last April, Petronas said Malaysia was formalising a joint-venture deal with Vietnam for exploring for oil here.

Thach also said Vietnam was still keen in joining the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which groups Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Brunei.

"But ASEAN has yet to respond to our request and I do not have the courage to bring up the issue again now," Thach said.

Vietnam, he said, had taken measures to improve its economy.

"From a three-digit inflation rate in the past, we have reduced it to a double-digit (rate) now," Thach said.

Foreign Organizations Donate Development Funds

BK1401075692 Hanoi VNA in English 0601 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 14—In 1991, the central province of Quang Tri received U.S.$913,249 as aid from international and foreign non-governmental organizations. The ICCO [Inter-Church Coordination Committee] organization provided U.S.$47,000 for reforestation at Ru Linh, U.S.$30,000 for the development of livestock breeding at Gia Thanh Village (Gio Linh District), U.S.$25,000 for processing farm products at Huong Hoa and Hai Lang Districts, and U.S.$30.000 for building the Nam Thach Han dam.

The Oxfam-Hong Kong agreed to provide U.S.$20,000 for Ai Tu District to build four water pumping stations. A trade union organization in Italy also provined U.S.$23,000 for the province to buy teaching aids for job training for children in mountain districts.

Doan Khue Visits Vinh Quang Army Corps, Factory

BK1101120592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 Dec 91

[Text] On 20 December, General Doan Khue, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the party Central Committee Military Commission, and minister of national defense, visited cadres and soldiers of the Vinh Quang Army Corps on the occasion of the 47th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army and the 22 December all-people national defense festival.

On the same day, General Doan Khue visited Z-123 Factory under the Defense Industry and Economy General Department, which is one of the leading Army-operated engineering factories.

Doan Khue Addresses VPA Anniversary Function

BK1201090192 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] To commemorate the 47th founding anniversary of the Vietnam's People Army [VPA] and the All-People's National Defense Day 22 December, the Military Commission of the party Central Committee and the Ministry of National Defense held a cordial get together recently with 151 writers, journalists, musicians, comrades responsible for artistic tasks, and representatives of cultural agencies of the Army and military units in Hanoi. Attending the function were General Doan Khue, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the Military Commission, and minister of national defense; Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, member of the CPV Central Committee and chief of the VPA General Staff; Senior Lieutenant General Dang Vu Hiep; and Lieutenant General Le Hai, deputy head of the Military Commission.

The history of Vietnam during the past almost 50 years is the history of a struggle for national independence and freedom. Our party, people, and Armed Forces have scored great military exploits and gained glorious achievements for the nation. Generations of our combatants in the Army have succeeded in strengthening the glorious tradition of being loyal to the nation and people, struggling and sacrificing for the fatherland's independence and freedom, while fulfilling all tasks, overcoming all difficulties, and defeating all enemies. Writers, journalists, and artists in the Army are a very special force who carry guns to defend the country and pens to write articles in newspapers and journals to promote patriotism and combat impetus among the combatants. As a result, the Military Commission of the party Central Committe and the Ministry of National Defense highly appraise contributions made by the contingent of writers, journalists, and artists in the army.

At this meeting, representatives of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee and the Ministry of National Defense listened to viewpoints of representatives of the mass media agencies. Gen. Doan Khue pledged that favorable conditions will be created for development of the press, literary, and artistic activities in the Army. He also urged writers, journalists, and artists in the Army to strive to firmly grasp the resolution of the Seventh CPV Congress to produce outstanding works to encourage the combatants, and expose the enemies' tactics and oppose their peaceful evolution scheme, while contributing to defending the fatherland and protecting socialism.

Ho Chi Minh City Marks Anniversary

BK1101130992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] According to a Ho Chi Minh City-based Voice of Vietnam correspondent, this morning, the city party committee, people's council, people's committee, and fatherland front committee organized a grand meeting to mark the 47th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] and the 22 December all-people national defense day.

Attending the meeting were Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City party committee; other comrades representing the various organs, departments, and sectors; and representatives of the local Armed Forces and people.

On behalf of the city party committee and local people, Comrade Nguyen Van Hanh, chairman of the city fatherland front committee, delivered a speech praising the people's Armed Forces for their glorious traditions over the past 47 years and pledging the determination of the local party committee and people to do all they can to provide members of the Armed Forces with increasingly better care.

Addressing the meeting, Lieutenant General Nguyen Xuan Hoa, deputy commander of the 7th Military Region, recalled the VPA's traditions and praised the local Armed Forces for their great contributions in the past two wars of resistance. He also asserted everyone's confidence in the party and pledged the determination of members of the Armed Forces to develop the glorious revolutionary traditions and to satisfactorily fulfill the task of defending and building the fatherland in the new situation.

Reception Held

BK1101113692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 Dec 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 21 December, delegations from the Vietnam War Veterans Association, the Ho Chi

Minh Communist Youth Union, the Vietnam Women Union, and the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] visited and congratulated the Ministry of National Defense on the occasion of the 47th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] and the 22 December all-people national defense festival.

General Doan Khue, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the party Central Committee Military Commission, and minister of national defense, cordially received the delegations.

Also present at the reception were many comrade high-ranking military officers representing the General Staff, the Political General Department, the Logistics General Department, and the Technical General Department.

Generals Meet Army Writers, Artists, Journalists

BK1101123192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] On the morning of 21 December, General Doan Khue, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the party Central Committee Military Commission, and minister of national defense, had a cordial get-together with a number of writers, artists, and journalists in the Army.

Also attending the get-together were Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, member of the party Central Committee and the party Central Committee Military Commission standing body; Senior Lieutenant General Dang Vu Hiep, chief of the General Staff; and Lieutenant General Le Hai, deputy director of the Political General Department.

New Container Shipping Service Direct to Europe

BK1401034292 Hanoi VNA in English 1247 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 13—The Companie Generale Maritime (CGM) has opened an Asia-Europe direct container service from Ho Chi Minh City.

The CGM, through Gemartrans (Asia) Co. Ltd., has been operating jointly with Vinamarine group for three years now. It is one of the most successful joint venture companies in Vietnam, Mr. Gerard H. Maupome, CGM Asia regional manager, is quoted by VIETNAM NEWS as saying.

According to him, CGM was the first West European line to return and introduce full container service. He added: "As a pioneer in this field we have helped Vietnamese importers and exporters to develop their overseas markets, and CGM is committed to continue to help the shipping industry of Vietnam." The CGM fleet includes 23 vessels under the French flag, with 27 regular lines including a round-the-world service.

With the new direct service, CGM can offer Vietnamese shippers at least 12 sailings per month to Europe, the Red Sea and other areas. "We firmly believe that the SRV will continue to develop its economy within the Southeast Asia area and more and more exchange of cargo can be expected between Vietnam, Southeast Asian and OECD countries," Mr. Maupome said.

New Telecommunication Switchboard Put in Service

BK1401073592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] Recently in Ho Chi Minh City, the Vietnam Posts and Telecommunication Corporation and the Overseas Telecommunication Corporation (OTC) of Australia put into service an AXE-103 telecommunication switchboard.

The AXE-103 switchboard has 512 lines connecting to an international communication system and 512 lines connecting to other switchboards of Vietnamese provinces. It can carry 13 million minutes of communication per year and is replacing the overloaded and unextendable 800,000-minute per year TRBC switchboard.

The AXE-103 switchboard is a modern communication system which can provide international telephone, cable, telex, facsimile services, as well as information on the economy, the market, and finance.

The switchboard is a part of a $66 million-cooperation project between the Vietnam Posts and Telecommunication Corporation and its Australian counterpart.

Microwave Link Set Up Between Hanoi, Lai Chau

BK1301143792 Hanoi VNA in English 1425 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 13—A 500-km digital microwave telecommunication line from Hanoi to the mountain province of Lai Chau was inaugurated here today by the Corporation of Posts and Telecommunications.

The line passes through Ha Tay, Hoa Binh and Son La Provinces.

This is the fourth line of its kind to link Hanoi with all the mountain border provinces in north Vietnam excepts Yen Bai and Ha Giang Provinces.

Phuoc Long Sets Up Radio, TV Relay Station

BK1401085292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] After more than eight months of extensive work, on the morning of 18 December 1991 at (Binh Muoi) Ba Ra of Phuoc Long District, the Song Be Radio and Television Station inaugurated and put into service a radio and television relay center.

During the test run the center relayed good quality transmission from FM radio and color television, meeting the demands of audiences in northern districts of Song Be Province.

Phu Yen Province Builds More TV Relay Stations

BK1401081392 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 1 Jan 92

[Text] Dong Xuan is one of the three mountainous districts of Phu Yen Province. To further enhance the development of cultural life among the people by allowing them to watch color TV broadcasts via satellite of Vietnam television the Dong Xuan District, together with the Phu Yen Provincial Electronics Corporation, recently established a color TV broadcast relay station with a network of 3.2 meter-diameter parabolic antennae and a 50-watt television transmitter manufactured by the private-owned Nha Trang Electronics Enterprise, which use Channel 11 OIRT [International Radio and Television Organization].

According to reports from Dong Xuan District and the Phu Yen Provincial Electronics Enterprise, such localities as La Hai Township and Xuan Quang, Xuan Phuoc, and Xuan Son Villages of Dong Xuan District, and An Nghiep and An Dinh Villages of Tuy An District, can now watch Vietnam TV broadcasts via the Dong Xuan relay station.

In two years or more of consolidation, construction and development, now, besides the Television relay station, Phu Yen Province has expanded two more stations in Xuan Hoa and Dong Xuan Districts to receive and transmit television programs from the Vietnam Television Station.

Number of TV, Radio Stations in Country Reported

BK1301071192 Hanoi VNA in English 0631 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 13—Vietnam has so far had 36 provincial T.V. stations, 77 relay-stations, and 141 T.V.R.O. [television receive only] receivers.

These represent two and three-fold increases respectively in the members of T.V. stations and TVRO receivers as compared with 1990.

There are also now in the country 8,365 radio-relays res and 288 FM stations.

Province, Committee Second-Round Party Congresses

Son La Province Congress

BK1101101592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 20 Dec 91

[Text] From 10 to 13 December 1991, the party organization of Son La Province held its 9th second-round congress. Nong Duc Manh attended and headed the congress. Comrade Do Van An, party Central Committee member and secretary of the provincial party committee, presented a political report of the provincial party organization's eighth committee.

In more than four years of renovation, the party organization of Son La Province has achieved important results and progress in many areas. The report asserted that despite the many acute difficulties for a mountainous province, Son La still has many opportunities to renovate satisfactorily.

The outstanding result was that the economic structure has shifted positively toward goods production. The area of food and industrial crops and fruit trees have increased from nine to more than 13 percent. The hectarage under afforestation has increased by 6.22 percent. Annual growth rates of the main livestock range from 2.6 to 4.6 percent. The family-based economy has developed vigorously under several forms, both in production and service. It has opened up many job opportunities, and increased products for the society in line with the characteristics of mountainous regions.

The solidarity bloc of the people of various nationalities has been maintained firmly. Security and social safety has also been assured.

The main tasks and objectives for the 1991-96 years for the Son La provincial party organizations are to continue to stabilize the socioeconomic situation, shift more vigorously toward goods production, create a new economic situation, alleviate poverty, raise the people's intellectual standard, strengthen the solidarity bloc among the people of all nationalities, firmly maintain national defense and security, and political stability; overcome negativism and corruption, and to attain the goal of 180,000 tonnes of rice.

Resolving the food problem must work in tandem with forest protection and the exploitation of the advantages of the mountain economy in the attainment of the 1995 production volume goals of 11,000-13,000 tonnes of assorted meat and vegetables, planting 13,000-35,000 ha of industrial crops including the two main ones—mulberry and coffee—and to increase the soybean area from 15,000 to 17,000 ha.

Interior Department Congress

BK1101080592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] On 18 December the party organization of the Interior Ministry's General Department No. 1 held its 4th second-round congress. Comrade Bui Thien Ngo, Political Bureau member, secretary of the party committee of the central police, and minister of the interior, and large numbers of delegates and representatives of party bases in the General Department attended the congress.

The congress unanimously assessed that although many complex political and social developments have taken place recently in the world and the country, the party members in General Department No. 1 have remained firm and have outstandingly fulfilled all their assigned duties. Together with the people's police, they have firmly maintained political security and social order and safety.

The party organization has provided leadership for units to strictly perform their political tasks, actively cope with the enemy schemes and acts of sabotage, and promptly take countermeasures.

Basic party organizations in the General Department have also been consolidated and constantly renovated to raise their militancy in order to cope with the situation and tasks.

The congress set forth the objectives, guidelines, and tasks for the days ahead, which are to continually enhance the militancy of basic party organizations, firmly control the situation, actively cope with the enemy schemes and acts of sabotage, and firmly assure political security and social order and safety.

Addressing the congress, Comrade Bui Thien Ngo praised the achievements scored by General Department No. 1 in the recent past. At the same time, he asserted the General Department's strategic position in the present situation, and the pressing imminent as well as long-term tasks of the people's security force.

Hanoi Treasury Bonds Selling Well

BK1101051392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Dec 91

[Text] As of 19 December, some 43 billion dong worth of treasury bond revenues had been collected countrywide, including 19 billion in Hanoi and 12 billion each in Haiphong and Ho Chi Minh cities. As such, the Hanoi treasury is taking the lead in selling treasury bonds.

Ho Thi Ngoc Vinh, chief of the Hanoi treasury, disclosed that at the peak Hanoi was collecting 1.435 billion dong per day from the sale of treasury bonds. In the past few days Hanoi has daily collected an average of 800-900 million dong in bond sales.

The Finance Ministry has decided to extend this treasury bond sale to 31 December. In order to satisfactorily conduct the bond-selling drive, the Hanoi treasury has coordinated with various sectors to conduct propaganda and motivate the people to buy bonds. At the same time, it has assigned cadres to 28 urban and suburban sale outlets to help the people buy bonds easily in order to benefit both the country and their families.

Defense Ministry Holds Training Conference

BK1101041892 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The Defense Ministry recently held a conference to review the 1991 combat training achievements. Senior Lieutenant General Dao Dinh Luyen, party Central Committee member and chief of the joint General Staff of the Vietnamese People's Army, presided over the conference. Representatives of the staff agencies and chief combat training officers of schools, military regions, army corps, armed branches and services, and institutes attended the conference.

In 1991 the entire Army correctly understood the training guideline and fulfilled its training task. Compared to 1990, much progress has been achieved, particularly in terms of the capability of troops and small units in conducting combined combat, technical, and tactical operations.

Units have thus far conducted 1,500 training courses for 105,000 cadres. As a result, the training ability and the level of organizational and command knowledge of primary unit cadres is much improved. Although the various armed branches and services have still encountered many material problems in technical training, they still have much initiative in saving public funds while being always able to maintain their combat readiness.

The regular army and regional armed forces, and the militia and self-defense forces of various localities and sectors have performed their duties correctly by linking military training to political education in order to defend their areas of operation and be ready to fight and defend the country.

Concluding the conference, the chief of the joint General Staff issued the 1992 training order and urged units to properly conduct technical, tactical, and physical training; observe discipline and regulations; and be ready to fight and, at the same time, actively oppose all peaceful evolutionary developments in order to firmly defend the socialist homeland.

Nguyen Van Linh Attends Shrimp Spawning Meeting

BK1401090592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Text] According to the report of a Ho Chi Minh City-based radio correspondent, on 27 December 1991, Can Gio District—formerly called Duyen Hai District—held a meeting to review the local investment in shrimp spawning. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the party Central Committee attended the meeting.

At present, the district has about 1,200 households spawning shrimp in nearly 1,300 plots which cover about 4,000 hectares of land that can produce between 700-900 tonnes of shrimp every year. The district also has seven state-run shrimp spawning units which invest in 360 hectares of land and three shrimp strain production centers which provide between 50 to 70 million shrimps for breeding yearly. However, the shrimp spawning in Can Gio is low, fluctuates in productivity, and not very well-organized.

At the meeting, the district outlined a general direction for increasing shrimp production in the state, collective, and private economic sectors by applying extensive or semi-extensive spawning and by improving the breeding method.

Speaking at the meeting, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh welcomed the idea that state-run economic units would invest money for people to do shrimp breeding, helping people increase their income, improve their living standards, and pay more taxes to the state.

EC Funds Salinity Prevention Irrigation Project

BK1401080092 Hanoi VNA in English 0607 GMT 14 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 14—Work has started on a salinity preventive project with EC financial assistance in Binh Khanh Village in Ho Chi Minh City's suburban district of Duyen Hai. The project includes 8.7 km-long dyke, nine dams and nine sluices to keep sea water off in the dry season, drain the fields of aluminous water and provide them with fresh water for cultivation. With the completion of the project, 550 hectates of rice in the area will be able to raise two crops a year and the per-hectare output may increase to more than 1.5 tonnes. The cost of the project is estimated at more than 2 billion dong.

Action Program To Aid Children in Rural Areas

BK1301162892 Hanoi VNA in English 1350 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 13—A programme of action for children of rural areas has been worked out by the Vietnam Farmers' Association (VFA).

Vietnam has about 21 million children in rural areas, accounting for 83 percent of the total children. At present, fifty percent of them suffer from malnutrition. Thirty percent of the children under five years of age are under treatment for acute respiratory infections. In addition, they are often affected by diarrhea, whooping cough, measles, polio, tentanus, etc.

Illiteracy is also a serious problem. About 1.2 million children between 6-10 years of age and about 1 million 11-14 years old do not go to school. There are about 300,000 orphans, 1 million handicapped children and 50,000 street children.

This situation is due to the consequences of war, poverty caused by backward economic conditions, low intellectual standards of the people, and a too rapid population growth.

The programme has enjoyed financial assitance from the United Nations Children's Fund and the Swedish Save the Children, Radda Barnen [as received].

The activities of the programme include the introduction of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to every family, the transfer of science and technology, capital lending and the sharing of experiences to help raise the work efficiency.

The VFA, together with local administrations, hoped to educate the farmers. Particularly [words indistinct] in using contraceptives, open free classes to eradicate illiteracy, and encourage the people to live a new, healthier lifestyle. The people join efforts with the state in giving help to children of such difficult living conditions. This programme has been experimented in the provinces of Ha Tuyen in the north, Ben Tre in the south, and Quang Ngai in central Vietnam.

Cadre Organization Committee Holds Symposium

BK1301141792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] On 27 December in Thanh Hoa, the Government Cadre Organization Committee held a symposium on the organization of administrative bodies at the province and district levels.

Attending the symposium were comrade heads of administration organizing committees of all provinces throughout country as well as of a number of key districts, leading officials of some provincial people's committees, and many scientists doing research on management organization.

In his opening speech, Comrade Minister Phan Ngoc Tuong, chairman of the Government Cadre Organization Committee, pointed out:

Following the two recent symposiums in Bac Thai and Hanoi on the organization of grassroots administrative bodies in the rural and urban areas, this symposium on the organization of administrative bodies at province and district levels is of utmost importance because it will help improve our present socioeconomic situation.

Administrative bodies at province and district levels are in charge of managing more than 80 percent of the population and 90 percent of the land of the whole country. In fact, the administrative bodies at these two levels are fully capable of taking the initiative in developing all local economic potentialities to support the overall national economic system.

Therefore, the symposium should clearly and adequately define the concrete role, functions, responsibilities, and rights of the administrative bodies at province and district levels so as to help enhance the organizational, supervisory, and managerial efficiency of the state administrative mechanism.

The symposium heard 20 reports presented by the various experts and scientists specializing in the areas of government organization and state management. The reports touched on issues related to Vietnam's administrative bodies at province and district levels both in the past and at present, budget management organizations, connections between local and central government budget systems, central and local economies, improvement of state mechanism and state management system in general and at province and district levels, building of the administrative bodies at province and district levels to support the cause of renovation, streamlining of the administrative mechanism at the local level, and so forth.

The symposium also devoted time to clarifying some key issues like the groundwork for establishing administrative bodies at province and district levels; ways to adequately define the role, functions, rights, and responsibilities of the administrative bodies at each level; ways to effectively build, consolidate, and use the contingent of management cadres at province and district levels; facts about the building of administrative bodies at province and district levels in the context of the renovation undertaking at present, and so forth.

The symposium will continue its work until 29 December.

Transport Minister at Joint-Automotive Exhibit

BK1001154892 Hanoi VNA in English 1502 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 10—An exhibition on automobiles to be assembled by the Hoa Byinh automobile assembly joint venture opened here today. Present at the opening ceremony were Minister of Post, Communication and Transport Bui Danh Luu, and Ambassador of the Phillippines to Vietnam Mr. Mariano Baccay. On display were various models of cars, buses and lorries of two Philippine companies which will be assembled at the Hoa Binh joint venture company with the participation of Columbian Motors Corp (CMC) and the Imex Pan [word indistinct] (IPP). In 1992 Hoa Binh Company will turn out 1,000 various kinds of automobiles.

Council Issues Circular on Improving Cash Flow

BK1301082792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Circular issued by the Council of Ministers on curbing inflation and improving cash flow—dated 28 December]

[Text] To contribute to curbing inflation during the Lunar New Year, improve the circulation of money, and overcome difficulty in cash flow at present, the Council of Ministers chairman requests:

1. Ministers of all ministries, chairmen of state commissions, heads of organizations attached to the Council of Ministers, and chairmen of people's committees of provinces and municipalities subordinate to the central government must coordinate with the State Bank to satisfactorily supervise the management and use of cash, and take concrete measures to collect more state revenues to ensure sufficient budget for expenditures by localities.

2. Efforts should be made to economically use the state budget. All expenditures that are not urgent should be suspended. Large payments in cash should be postponed to integrate cash for paying wages, social welfare allowances for sick and wounded soldiers, and other urgent expenditures directly affecting production and the people's daily life.

3. Cash received by units of economic organizations must be promptly transfered to the State Bank in order to meet requirements in cash by localities.

Dao Duy Tung Attends Symposium on Journalism

BK1201145392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] A symposium under the theme "30 Years of Training Journalism Cadres and Improving Their Quality" was held on 26 December at the Propaganda and Training College.

Attending the symposium were Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; delegates from the various central departments and sectors; and representatives of the mass media.

Over the past 30 years the Journalism Department of the Propaganda and Training College has served as a major center for the whole country in the training of journalists, thus constantly improving the political and ideological backgrounds, professionalism, and leadership and management skills of the contingent of cadres in charge of the various news agencies and press organs at the central and local levels.

The college has trained nearly 1,000 cadres with college educations and has helped improve the skills of some 2,000 journalists holding different positions

Expressing their views at the seminar, many participants stressed the need to work out an appropriate training method so as to improve the quality and efficiency of training activities, and also to accelerate research work and make joint efforts to build and develop Vietnam's journalism in the new situation.